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How to beat the great bed-bug invasion

Nigel Hawkes' practical advice, p17



THE FUGITIVE

Running off the small screen on to the big

Geoff Brown on his seat edge, p35



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On the receiving end of the Longest Day

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30p
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THE TIMES



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RR

Armed forces pledge loyalty

Yeltsin: I will win without spilling blood

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin pledged yesterday that he would win the battle for power in Russia without bloodshed as the armed forces, interior troops and government said that they remained loyal to him despite the challenge to his leadership from Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president.

General Pavel Grachev, the defence minister, whom the rival parliament claimed it had dismissed from office on Tuesday night, appeared in uniform at Mr Yeltsin's side on a walkabout in Moscow and offered his personal support to the Kremlin leader and that of his troops.

Viktor Yerin, the interior

Boris Yeltsin, who appears to have weathered the Moscow political storm, says he will not use force to restore power to the Russian federation

package for Russia and was expected to approve it. Mr Christopher and Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, who is visiting Washington, said Western aid to Russia should continue, conditional on the reform process continuing.

Most of the Russian regions and even the usually hostile Central Bank, said that they supported Mr Yeltsin, who now seems to be carrying most of the country's significant institutions on his side. However, Valery Zorkin, the chairman of the Constitutional Court, called for simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections.

Gen Grachev told Tass news agency that he had ordered extra security measures to prevent any split in the armed forces. Special units were being set up to ward off terrorist attacks and the issuing of sidearms would be subject to special permission, he said.

The defence minister said later: "I held negotiations with my commanders of all ranks and they in turn held talks and meetings with all their unit commanders who definitively declared full support for their commander in chief, President Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin]."

His swift and decisive response is a boost to Mr Yeltsin and a blow to Mr Rutskoi, a former colonel who had hoped

to swing the army behind him. During his walkabout yesterday, Mr Yeltsin reassured Muscovites: "We... do not want and do not intend to use any violent methods," he said. "We want everything to go peacefully without a drop of blood being spilt."

He ruled out any compromise with the legislature: "I think that we have had enough of parliament making fools of us and of the people," he said.

Outside the parliament building, about 5,000 protesters cheered as Mr Khasbulatov emerged to announce that he had been forced to resist Mr Yeltsin's "path of crime". He described the move to dissolve parliament as an "anti-constitutional coup".

Only one government minister has so far broken ranks with Mr Yeltsin. Sergei Glaznev, the foreign trade minister, resigned saying that he could not accept an unconstitutional document.

Parliament and Mr Rutskoi's camp now look distinctly wrong-footed. Mr Yeltsin's cause has been bolstered by messages of sympathy from Western leaders and from Nato.

Rutskoi's general, page 14
America's dilemma, page 15
Anne McElvoy, page 18
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Economic View, page 29



The derailed train with one of the coaches partly submerged in an alligator-infested swamp. A British railwayman helped to rescue passengers

38 die as train plunges into alligator swamp

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

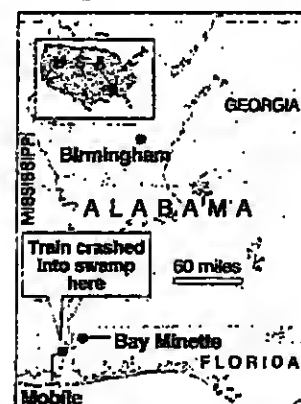
AT LEAST 38 people were killed and 15 were still missing yesterday after a train was derailed on a bridge near Mobile, Alabama, and plunged into an alligator-infested swamp.

Amtrak's Sunset Limited express was carrying 206 passengers and crew on the 3,000-mile journey from Los Angeles to Miami when it was derailed at dawn. Coastguard helicopters and boats worked through the morning to rescue more than 150 people. By mid-afternoon hopes were fading fast for the missing 15 passengers and crew.

Witnesses said that a railway bridge across the Mobile river and the Bayou Sara Creek collapsed without warning, sending four of the train's eight coaches and all three of its engines into the water. Two of the submerged coaches carried passengers. Amtrak said.

Simon Grant, 20, a British Rail employee from Reading on a four-week railway-trek holiday, told CNN he had helped to pull other travellers from the wrecked coaches. "I woke up and the train was like a roller-coaster slowing down," he said. "It was like a car hitting a wall. I got up and people were screaming." A railway official smashed a window to allow people to get out. "It was extremely dark;

you could not see many of the passengers," he said. The leading engine caught fire after leaving the rails. The Mobile sheriff's department



said that 38 bodies had been retrieved, and last night divers continued to search the muddy waters. Rescuers were joined by scores of volunteers using boats from marinas near by.

Mr Grant said he had been dozing in one of the rear cars when the accident occurred. Just before the derailment "the tracks were wobbling quite viciously", he said, but the coach in which he was travelling remained on the bridge while those ahead plunged into the 25ft-deep water. "The power was out, and we couldn't get the windows open. It made the people panic more," he said.

Mr Grant said he saw other passengers struggling to the surface from the submerged coaches. "It was very murky and misty, and too dark to see where they were swimming. It was a state of complete confusion."

The accident is the worst in the history of Amtrak, which was established in 1970 to run America's long-distance passenger trains. The 550ft bridge was built in 1909, and a freight train which crossed it immediately before the Sunset Limited reported no problems.

Up to 10 British students were thought to have been on the train, according to a Foreign Office spokesman in London. No reports suggested that any of them had been injured or killed, he said.

Birth control is evil, says Pope in final version of encyclical

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE POPE has forcefully restated his ban on artificial birth control and emphasised his opposition to divorce and abortion in the encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*. A copy of the final version has been leaked to *The Times* three weeks ahead of its official publication.

But the keenly awaited document, the most important response from the Roman Catholic hierarchy to modern liberal thought, has been toned down significantly in some areas, including the question of papal infallibility.

The encyclical, one of the most authoritative forms of Roman Catholic teaching,

says that contraception and other sexual sins are "intrinsically evil". Addressed to "all the bishops of the Catholic church", it tackles "fundamental questions of the church's moral teaching".

The Pope omits mention of infallibility, a change which represents a victory for the liberal wing of the Catholic church. But otherwise there are no concessions to modern trends in moral theology. In structure and content it resembles closely a draft leaked to *The Times* last month.

The Pope shows no sign of relaxing his stance against contraception, homosexuality, pre-marital sex and abortion, and indicates that he adheres rigidly to the rule of celibacy for priests. He expresses

alarm at the "interpretations of Christian morality" which have developed since the Second Vatican Council (1962-5), a council intended by Pope John XXIII to bring the church up to date with its teaching, discipline and organisation.

By avoiding any mention of infallibility, the encyclical is likely to achieve wider acceptance of its moral precepts. Its uncompromising stance, in particular in the area of sexual morality, will be seen by some as an attempt to turn back the clock to before the Second Vatican Council.

Others, however, will welcome the strength of the statement, the evidence it gives of the church's refusal to bend to modern mores, and the Pope's determination to set

a lead as once-Christian communities turn their backs on traditional values.

The condemnation of dissident theologians has been softened in tone but not in substance, and the Pope still makes clear that there is no room for dissent. The changes to the draft are thought to have been made in the past 12 months. The encyclical is signed and dated August 6.

The 179-page text, divided into three chapters, makes clear that the way to salvation is through obedience to the church, meaning the Catholic Magisterium or teaching authority.

Encyclical extracts, page 8
Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Activists condemn 'gong-crazy' Tories

BY ANDREW PIERCE

TORY grassroots activists have reacted angrily to claims by national and regional party officers that there is widespread party support for John Major's leadership. The officers are dismissed as "gong-crazy" and are said to have been dragged down by the party's high command into supporting the prime minister.

In sharp contrast to the optimistic and supportive tone of a letter published in *The Times* yesterday from Dame Wendy Mitchell, president of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, and 17 party officers, party members talk of demoralisation and decay in the party and describe its organisation as geriatric.

Christina Speight, a lifelong Tory supporter and a founder of the mainstream Bow Group, has taken the unprecedented step of writing to 250 constituency chairmen urging them to "save the party from catastrophe" by confronting their MPs and constituency chairmen with the facts of life.

In a letter to *The Times* today Mrs Speight, a member of Ealing and Acton Conservatives, says: "I have been saddened but not astonished by the bewilderment and sense of betrayal that responses to my approach show."

Ministers and area chairmen, who insisted that economic recovery would bring a revival in the party's electoral fortunes, were wrong, she said. "The outraged core of the party seem to be in revolt at what they see as the betrayal. Continued on page 2, col

Ports chief makes £12m in takeover

PETER Vincent, chief executive of Medway Ports, will receive £12 million, and an unnamed labourer almost £250,000 as a result of an agreed £104 million takeover bid from Mersey Docks and Harbour. Medway Ports is a trust port privatised 18 months ago for £14.9 million in cash.

About 300 employees who backed a buyout in 1992 will benefit. Shares bought then for £1 were yesterday £37.25.

Apart from the taxpayer, the only losers were about 500 dockers who accepted redundancy on the condition that they surrender their shares.

Agreed bid, page 25
Graham Scarsent, page 25

Booker list ignores favourites

BY ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

RODDY Doyle, the Irish novelist, yesterday emerged as odds-on favourite from a shortlist of six to win the Booker Prize this year.

The big surprise was the omission from the list of Vikram Seth, whose mammoth *A Suitable Boy* has been reviewed with lavish praise. A source at the Saville Club, where the judges met, said the novel was thought too long and over promoted.

Other novelists who had been tipped for the shortlist included William Boyd, Iris Murdoch and Pat Barker. Doyle's novel, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, is on the list with *Under the Frog* by Tibor Fischer, born in England of



Seth: his novel was thought too long

Hungarian parents, *Sour Tisza*, by Michael Ignatieff, the Canadian author and broadcaster; *Remembering Babylon*, by the Australian David Malouf; *Crossing the River*, by Caryl Phillips, who was born in the West Indies, and

The Stone Diaries, by Carol Shields, a Canadian.

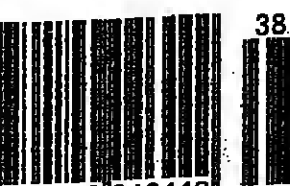
Lord Gowrie, a former arts minister and now chairman of Sotheby's Europe who is chairman of the judges, said: "In the end what we all went for was passion. In diverse ways, all these novels share it."

The prize, worth £20,000 in cash, will be judged, in addition to Lord Gowrie, by Gillian Beer, professor of English at Cambridge, journalist and author Anne Chisholm, Nicholas Clee of *The Bookseller*, and Oliver Todd, the French writer and broadcaster. The winner will be announced on October 26.

Daniel Johnson, page 16
Photograph, page 24
Books, pages 38 and 39

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Treasury may take slice of tuition fees

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Treasury may take part of any income universities raise from charging students for tuition, John Patten, the education secretary, told vice-chancellors yesterday.

Mr Patten, speaking at the vice-chancellors' annual meeting in Leicester, refused to commit the government to a "pay as you learn" system, but asked university leaders to consider proposals to charge for degree courses.

He stressed that "no options are ruled out" in the Treasury review of education spending, and also warned the vice-chancellors not to breach the government's public-sector pay guidelines.

He said the government was following the vice-chancellors' debate on private funding. They claim that billions of pounds would be needed during the next few years to meet government expansion targets while maintaining standards. They are considering four schemes to raise the money, including a graduate tax, private fees and a new loans scheme.

Successive education secretaries have avoided taking a lead on charges that are likely to be an electoral liability. Labour has also postponed a statement on the subject. Mr Patten was expected to back the principle of charging, but instead left the ball in the vice-chancellors' court.

The vice-chancellors will give an initial response tomorrow, but they left Mr Patten in no doubt about their reaction. There were cries of "no" when he asked: "If you believe that costs should be shared, is it right that this additional source of income should be used, at least in part, to reduce the contribution which the taxpayer would otherwise be called on to make?"

Lorna Fitzsimons, the president of the National Union of Students, said students could not afford to pay fees. "We do not want expansion of higher education on the cheap, but we cannot agree that students should cover the costs."

Preparatory schools must be free of "creeping nationalisation" and avoid mimicking state rivals, a leading headmaster said yesterday.

Michael Beale, chairman of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, said preparatory schools must take advantage of their independence and ensure parents were offered a quality alternative to the state sector.

The call comes as more preparatory schools adopt the national curriculum, which is compulsory only for state schools. Parents are anxious a private education should not preclude pupils from returning to the state system.

Silence is golden in Whitehall's Wonderland

By JOE JOSEPH

SCOTT ENQUIRY SKETCH

"SILENCE," said William Waldegrave to the Scott arms-for-Iraq enquiry, "is an important event when you're circulating things to other ministers."

As a statement from the minister in charge of opening up the corridors of government to the light of public scrutiny, it seemed an enigmatic answer. As a comment from someone who was a Foreign Office minister at the time of the arms-to-Iraq affair, it sounded slightly defensive.

"The lack of a thunderbolt from on high," Waldegrave went on, introducing us to the shorthand of "on high" for prime minister, "means some-

thing." Only Lord Justice Scott had the courage to snap: "I don't know what it means."

That was typical of the *Alice-in-Wonderland* exchanges that framed Waldegrave's testimony. Like all well-drafted civil servants' memoranda, the interpretations of the guidelines for what Britain could or could not export to Baghdad were lifted shamelessly from Lewis Carroll: the rules, as Humpty Dumpty put it, meant just what a minister chose them to mean, neither more nor less.

"There is a misunderstanding here," Waldegrave suggested. "An understandable misunderstanding," he added less helpfully. Later he said: "The only point I'm disagreeing with you — and I'm not sure I am disagreeing..." After another jigsaw of words, Presley Baxendale, the enquiry's lawyer, said: "I didn't think you meant what you were saying," without urging him to say what he meant, or to mean what he said.

Lord Justice Scott was so confused about whether Britain's policy towards sales to Iraq had changed or not that it had been keeping him awake at night, he said. What baffled the judge was Waldegrave's contention that the 1985 export guidelines couldn't be changed without going to the foreign secretary and the prime minister and without then being announced in Parliament, and since none of those things happened, "ergo the guidelines were never changed". Carroll would have loved that logic.

Lord Justice Scott, still fumbling along those dark Whitehall corridors, asked why, if the formulation of the guidelines had changed by becoming more flexible, what was wrong with announcing them to Parliament? The judge couldn't imagine anyone throwing up their hands in horror, and if they had thrown their hands up in horror, then surely that was all the more reason to tell Parliament?



William Waldegrave under cross-examination by, from left, Lord Justice Scott, Presley Baxendale QC, and Christopher Muttukumaru

Britain was deceived, Waldegrave tells arms-to-Iraq investigation

By MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was deceived by Iraq into exporting equipment capable of manufacturing armaments in breach of the government's arms export guidelines, William Waldegrave, the former Foreign Office minister, told the Scott enquiry yesterday.

But the guidelines were never covertly changed in an attempt to exploit the Iraqi market for military equipment, and Parliament was not deceived about government policy, Mr Waldegrave, now Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said.

The 1984 arms export guidelines, which prohibited the

sale of lethal equipment such as aircraft, tanks and guns, and anything which could "significantly enhance" the military ability of either side to "prolong or exacerbate the conflict", including spare parts and machine tools, were relaxed after the 1988 ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, he said.

Only a small amount of additional equipment was exported and as there was no policy change, the government was not obliged to notify Parliament of the relaxed guidelines, said Mr Waldegrave, who is also the minister for open government.

"After the ceasefire, the foreign secretary authorised an approach to the guidelines

which allowed a little increased flexibility in the control of industrial equipment, such as machine tools."

Mr Waldegrave said the new flexibility did not extend to lethal equipment. However, "full hindsight shows that the Iraqis deceived us about the end use to which some of these exports were to be put."

"It was not misleading or untruthful to say in answer to Parliament or the public that the Howe guidelines were in place unchanged, and were being strictly interpreted in the light of prevailing circumstances. They were."

"Shifts were made in the way defence-related sales were handled", but the effect of any change was marginal and

"well within the room allowed by the guidelines", he said.

Under cross-examination from Lord Justice Scott and Presley Baxendale QC, it emerged that ministers and officials had proposed redefining the guidelines in December 1988. But Sir Geoffrey Howe, then foreign secretary, decided to postpone the policy change as such action would appear "too cynical" while Iraq was using chemical weapons against the Kurds.

However, the civil servants responsible for vetting export licence applications from British companies appeared to be working on the assumption that there had been a *de facto* change in the arms export guidelines. Mr Waldegrave

said there could not be a change in policy until there was an announcement in Parliament.

But Lord Justice Scott, responding to the apparent disparity, said: "There is a problem here which has been keeping me awake at night. The test is what is actually happening, not whether the change has been formally announced."

Mr Waldegrave insisted that the guidelines were never changed. Asked to explain the discrepancy, he said it seemed that officials were "jumping the gun" in anticipation of a formal change in government policy.

The hearings continue today.

Rise in privatised rail fares 'only 10%'

Rail fares will not rise by more than 10 per cent after privatisation, Roger Freeman, the transport minister, said on a visit to the Highlands yesterday.

Mr Freeman had been invited to the region by Duncan MacPherson, Regional Council convenor, who wanted assurances about the future of unprofitable services. Mr Freeman said he recognised that there would always be unprofitable services but Scotrail or whoever managed the Scottish rail network would receive a government subsidy and it would not be line specific.

Mr Freeman said: "No minister can guarantee any service in perpetuity. But I am not aware of any BR intention to change the current patterns and the franchise of Scotrail will be based on all the trains it runs at the moment. Contracts will be signed to cover a specific period, so I believe there will be a greater degree of certainty over particular lines."

Bully watchdog works

Most of a group of 24 primary and secondary schools involved in an 18-month anti-bullying project have reduced bullying, the British Psychological Society's annual conference in Oxford was told yesterday. Professor Peter Smith, who tested the anti-bullying methods developed in Norway, will report to education ministers this year. He said that he hoped the education department would circulate advice packs to schools early next year, which might lead to improvements in playgrounds and the enlistment of dinner ladies in the campaign to reduce bullying.

Boat 'not sunk by sub'

The fishing boat *Pescado*, which sank with the loss of six crew 30 months ago, was probably not hit by a submarine, Devon and Cornwall police said yesterday. The boat sank in 250ft of water 13 miles off the Cornish coast and its owner, Alan Ayres, said it must have been hit by a navy submarine. The Ministry of Defence has always denied the allegation, while members of the crewmen's families have raised doubts about the vessel's seaworthiness. The police said at a news conference that there was "no significant structural damage" to the hull of the boat.

Quiz fraud conviction

An accountancy student was yesterday convicted of defrauding BT of nearly £300,000 while playing the *Wheel of Fortune* phone-in competition. Knightsbridge Crown Court in London was told Mayo Laval, 27, from Gorton, Greater Manchester, won at least £22,000 in prizes in the general knowledge quiz and accumulated phone bills of £268,793 which he failed to pay. Laval was remanded in custody for eight days for pre-sentencing reports. His accomplice, Nicole Warrity, 18, of Notting Hill, west London, will be sentenced today.

Court defeat for doctors

Two doctors made redundant during a hospital reorganisation after the murders committed by the nurse Beverly Allitt failed yesterday in a court attempt to keep their jobs open pending the hearing of an appeal. Charith Nanayakkara, 55, and Frederick Porter, 46, who were consultant paediatricians at Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital, Lincolnshire, had asked the Court of Appeal for interim injunctions to prevent two new posts being offered. The trust now in charge of the hospital says they are not qualified for the new specialist posts.

MP's death crash call

Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP for Great Grimsby, yesterday called for an enquiry into how two teenage boys in the care of Humberside social services were able to steal a car which crashed into a van, killing a fellow joyrider and seriously injuring four people. The accident happened near Hull on Tuesday while the car was being pursued by police.

Croats free Briton



Graham Noble, left, a former British soldier, was yesterday released from a Croatian jail after being held for more than three months on spying charges. British embassy officials in Zagreb received a telephone call from Mr Noble, 27, of Brighton, Sussex, to say he had been acquitted after a day-long trial. Angie Anderson, Mr Noble's sister-in-law, said: "He could be home by the weekend."

Three held over knifing

Three men were arrested yesterday in connection with Tuesday's knife attack on a 23-year-old man in Wimbledon Park, southwest London. Ian Mangan, 23, of Wimbledon, who was stabbed 12 times, is still unconscious in intensive care at St George's Hospital, Tooting. The men, in their early 20s, were arrested at an address near the park.

Porn seized at schools

Police investigating a playground trade in computer pornography have seized more than 750 disks from children at high schools in Bedfordshire. The disks feature explicit sex acts, sometimes involving children or animals, and were changing hands for £10. It came to light when one teenager was caught playing the disks on a computer in his bedroom.

Prices an ocean apart

Dinosaur toys cost up to 80 per cent more in Britain than in the United States, Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said yesterday. He has sent the Director-General of Fair Trading price comparisons gathered by his researchers from Toys 'R' Us branches in both countries. Toys 'R' Us did not dispute the price differences.

Grassroots Tories reject leadership

Continued from page 1

of everything they believed the party stood for."

In her letter to constituency chairmen Mrs Speight said that the "betrayal" had produced a dreadful harvest: the British National Party's success in Millwall. "There is now no patriotic party for the electorate to turn to. Please join me in trying to save the party from catastrophe before we are massacred at the local and European elections."

The letter from Dame Wendy, which was also signed by Sir Basil Feldman, chairman of the National Union, said that they were fed up with seeing a tiny minority of malcontent Tory MPs claiming to speak for the party. Having been present at the recent meetings the prime minister had held with Tory association leaders, they knew the mood of the party in the country. Most thought the recession was coming to an end, which was why John Major needed their support

more than ever. "We can assure you that he has it," they wrote.

He does not, however, have the support of everyone. Andrew Smith, another lifelong supporter and a member of Kensington and Chelsea association, adds his weight to the outcry in another letter in today's *Times*: "In the course of 23 solid years' solid work for the party, during which I held senior office at both constituency and area level, I cannot recall any period of total demoralisation comparable to the situation we now face."

The growing financial problems of the Tory party last night caught up with David Hunt, the employment secretary, when his local association dismissed its agent to try to save money. Andrew Gribble, 49, a former bank manager, was laid off by Wirral West Conservatives. More than 50 agents have gone since the April election.

Letters, page 19

Ford cuts Escort production

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD is to cut production of Escorts at its Merseyside plant by a third, costing the company nearly £30 million, because of the slump in orders from the Continent.

Britain's biggest motor manufacturer is the latest to bow to the continental recession. It cut 18 shifts from its Halewood plant.

Ford is also cutting production at its Fiesta plant in Dagenham, Essex, and the Transit van factory in Southampton will be on a four-day week until the end of October.

At Halewood, which produces 800 cars and vans a day, 4,500 workers will lose bonus and shift payments.

Jimmy Airlie, chief Ford negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said the news was another bitter blow on top of Nissan's decision to cut output by 9 per cent at Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Theatres saved by funding U-turn

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

THEATRES in the regions, including Bristol Old Vic, Plymouth Theatre Royal and Greenwich Theatre, have been saved from closure by an Arts Council about-turn described by arts campaigners as breathtaking.

Proposals to withdraw grants from many regional theatres, which were announced in July, were abandoned yesterday at a meeting of the full council.

The council said its drama budget would still be cut by £1.4 million according to new priorities that divert money from theatre to contemporary dance and visual arts. Rather than withdraw support from individual theatres, however, each drama organisation that receives funding from the council — including the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company — will have its grant reduced in a move dubbed "equal misery for all". Arts campaigners

welcomed the decision, but accused the council of causing regional theatres unnecessary anxiety. Theatres had been confused by the series of denials and counterclaims issued by the Arts Council since the plans were announced in July, according to the National Campaign for the Arts.

Chris Burcher, of the campaign, said: "We can only raise half a cheer for this decision. There have been a lot of very worried theatres with nervous bank managers throughout the summer."

Philip Hedley, artistic director of the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, said the council had misjudged the "massive sentiment for regional theatres both within the profession and among the public. It is breathtaking."

Lord Pahlumbo, chairman of the council, called for intensified protests against the government's proposed 2 per cent cut in its budget.

Increase in house sales defies lull

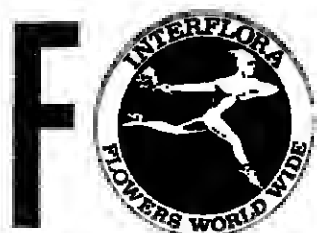
By RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE sales rose in August, defying the traditional summer lull, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said yesterday. But prices showed little change.

In the South East, surveys reported improving confidence and increased sales. London had a busy month in spite of a lack of new properties coming onto the market.

Figures released yesterday by the Corporate Estate Agents Property Index, a survey of 4,300 estate agency offices, showed that sales fell slightly in August compared to July, but were up dramatically on August last year.

Peter Considine, chairman of the ombudsman for corporate estate agents, said: "Last August, the stamp duty holiday ended and the market became even more severely depressed. The figures point towards a continued recovery of the market in the autumn."



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Secret 'Star Wars' papers found in spy suspect's car

By RICHARD DUCE

SECRET papers related to the "Star Wars" space defence project and the Rapier missile system were found in the car of an engineer accused of spying for the Russians, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The documents were among more than 160 papers discovered during the search of Michael Smith's Datsun car after his arrest last August for selling secrets from the GEC Research Centre in north London, where he worked.

Special Branch officers spent almost three days searching Mr Smith's flat in Kingston-upon-Thames and also his car, where they found the documents and electrical components wrapped inside a Sainsbury carrier bag and then placed in a blue sports bag, said John Nutting, for the prosecution.

Five of the documents were in Mr Smith's handwriting and related to defence research projects at GEC. They were headed "Rugate Filters for SDI" (the "Star Wars" Strategic Defence Initiative), "Micro machining project", "Quasi optical car radar", "Micron valve project" and

"Olfactory research project". There were also blueprints relating to Rapier and papers on thermal imaging. The military significance of the projects will be explained to the jury. Much of the trial, before Mr Justice Bilefeld, will be held in camera.

Mr Smith, 45, denies four charges under the Official Secrets Act. Two allege that between January 1990 and July last year he communicated sketches, plans, notes or other documents for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state.

He is also alleged to have made a sketch or note and obtained or collected material for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Smith was recruited by the former KGB colonel Viktor Oshenko in the early 1970s. Mr Smith was arrested several days after Oshenko defected to the West in July last year. He will not be called to give evidence against his alleged recruit.

Mr Smith told police after his arrest that he had emptied his desk on the last day of

work at GEC on July 31, when he became redundant. He did not realise some of the material was secret information and when he discovered its sensitivity he planned to dump it.

He said that unexplained bank deposits came from a man he knew only as Harry, working for a commercial rival of GEC and to whom he had sold only low-grade information. The court heard that two envelopes each containing £1,000 in £50 notes were found at Mr Smith's flat.

Mr Smith lost his security clearance at his former employer, EMI-Thorn, in 1978 after it was discovered he had failed to disclose his previous membership of the Communist party.

A sequence of letters written by Mr Smith to the defence ministry, in which he sought to have his security standing returned, were read to the court yesterday. In one of them he claimed: "I am quite happy with the democratic system, I am not very interested in politics and prefer to concentrate on more worthwhile pursuits."

The trial continues today.

Prostitute blackmailed rich client over bondage session

By A STAFF REPORTER

A PROSTITUTE blackmailed a wealthy client and threatened to give details of her bondage session to a newspaper, claiming he had a cocaine habit, the Old Bailey was told.

Jean Douglas, 40, was at first successful in extorting £2,000 from the man for her silence, but when she insisted on more money he went to the police.

Stephen Waller, for the prosecution, said Douglas, who also used the name Pippa Marshall, was picked up by the man outside the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, Mayfair.

The man, referred to as Mr X throughout the hearing on Tuesday, had been drinking heavily at a business meeting and took Douglas in a taxi to his home in west London.

Mr Waller said Mr X's wife was away and sexual activity took place in the bedroom, including Mr X being bound with silk ties and belts. When he awoke Douglas had gone and so had £300 cash and his watch. "He decided not to report the matter to police and put it down to experience," he said. Last September, three

months later, Douglas telephoned him and demanded £2,000. Mr X dismissed the matter with his wife and made a payment through his solicitor in exchange for a signed agreement that the money was in final settlement for the services provided.

In January, Douglas repeated her demand for money, saying Mr X had initially promised to pay £3,000, the court was told. Mr Waller said she told his wife: "I'll take the story to the papers," and in another conversation with Mr X said: "Pay me £3,000 or I'll go to the press and expose you for having a cocaine habit."

Douglas also turned up at his office with a photographer she said worked for a Sunday newspaper. She was arrested after Mr X went to the police and kept an appointment with her to record her demands with a hidden tape recorder.

Douglas, of Brixton, south London, pleaded guilty to making an unwarranted demand with menaces for money. She was remanded for a month for pre-sentence reports. Gillian Hammetton, for the defence, said Douglas, a mother of three, left home at a young age and had no choice but to earn money through prostitution. However, she had been shocked by the demands made by Mr X. "It was quite exceptional out of the ordinary and far beyond the activities," she was normally engaged in. Even for a prostitute it was way over the top. But she agreed because she was desperate and he promised her £3,000.

Miss Hammetton said Douglas had poured a glass containing tranquillisers down the toilet when Mr X was not looking. "She was afraid that if he took any more tablets he would overdose and she would be left with a body."

Douglas said she left at 6am and took nothing from the house. She later consulted a solicitor to see if she had any "rights" as a prostitute. "She reflected on the things she had done for Mr X and felt full of hatred, disgust, and used," Miss Hammetton said. "She began to feel outrage and decided that a further £3,000 would be compensation for what she went through."

Friend cleared in suicide case

By EDWARD GORMAN

A TEENAGER who gave paracetamol tablets to a friend who was terminally ill with multiple sclerosis was acquitted yesterday of aiding and abetting her suicide.

Andrew Chard, 19, was freed after Judge Pownall QC told an Old Bailey jury there was no evidence to support the prosecution case that he had helped Martina Reeve, 37, to kill herself. "He only provided her with an option of taking her own life by buying for her the paracetamol tablets and that is not enough," Judge Pownall said.

Judge Pownall told the jury: "As a matter of law there is insufficient evidence for you to find this defendant guilty." He added that the prosecution had failed to present any evidence to show that Mr Chard had "set out to see" that Mrs Reeve would take her own life.

The outcome of the case was welcomed by campaigners to



Chard: "I was the only one she could trust"

legalise voluntary euthanasia. Ludovic Kennedy, the author and broadcaster who is vice-president of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, said: "It could open the door a little bit to people doing the same sort of thing. Indeed, I hope it would." Mr Kennedy said it was significant that Mr Chard

had been acquitted despite having made no attempt to conceal his intention in buying the tablets.

The court had been told how Mr Chard, an unemployed computer operator from Reigate, Surrey, had sought to comfort Mrs Reeve, who lay terminally ill in the East Surrey hospital in January this year after having multiple sclerosis for 13 years.

Mr Chard, who was a close family friend of Mrs Reeve, told detectives: "She wanted me to buy her the paracetamol. It was her wish to have the option to take her own life. She told me I was the only one she could trust."

Mr Chard gave the tablets to his friend on January 21. She died five days later. "The thing that came across most strongly was that she wanted to be in control," Mr Chard told police. Mrs Reeve had told him: "I am suffering so much. God will understand."

Divorce fear puts couples off marriage

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE couples are choosing to remain unmarried after having children because they see marriage as a meaningless, expensive ritual that brings few benefits and often ends with a traumatic divorce. Fear of divorce is a key reason for the rise in long-term cohabitation, suggests a study by the Policy Studies Institute.

It found that the number of people marrying or remarrying had fallen almost 6 per cent in the past ten years and by more than 18 per cent since 1971. The majority of couples cohabited at some stage in their relationship but most got married before, or shortly after, they had children.

However, a growing number of women no longer regarded motherhood and marriage as inextricably

linked. The survey of more than 300 mothers who had children at least four years old found that most long-term cohabitantes had been living with the father of their children for an average of eight years.

One woman said: "Everyone in my family who has been married is divorced. I don't think it is worth it. To me it is a lot of pain, getting married and breaking up." Others worried about the expense. "You couldn't get married for under £4,000 and it's so much wasted money," said one.

Some women rejected marriage in the belief that cohabitation would mean a more equal partnership. However, the study found no difference between cohabiting and married couples in how decisions were taken or domestic

chores shared. "The notion that people try harder or don't take each other for granted when they cohabit is not borne out by these findings," Bill Daniels, the institute's director, said.

Most of the long-term cohabitantes were poor or unemployed, with half saying they had joint incomes of £12,000 a year or less. One in ten was highly educated and affluent.

The study, conducted by Susan McRae, described the growth of cohabiting mothers as "one of the major social changes of the 20th century", but said most had no understanding of their legal position. None had established the father's parental rights and responsibilities, believing that registering the child in the father's name was all that was necessary.



Shirley Bassey and Ringo Starr bang the drum for Britain in Monte Carlo

Major lifts Olympic spirits

JOHN Major flew to Monte Carlo this morning after declaring that on merit Manchester would be hard to beat in the race for the 2000 Olympic Games.

The prime minister, who will speak in favour of Manchester's bid before the International Olympic Committee today, said he was confident that the city could stage a sporting festival as good as any in history. But he was making no predictions about the outcome.

Win or lose, Manchester will party tonight. Up to 15,000 revellers are expected to attend an

open-air jamboree at the Roman Arena in Castlefield. The decision of the IOC will be heard live from Monte Carlo on a 30ft screen and the skies will light up with a spectacular fireworks display. City centre pubs will stay open until the early hours, and buses, trains and trams will lay on extra services.

Latest odds from Ladbrooke make Peking favourite at events, with Sydney at 5-4, Manchester 3-1, Berlin 16-1 and Istanbul 200-1.

Judgment day, page 42. David Miller, page 48

School pupils hurt as buses collide

THIRTY children needed hospital treatment yesterday after two school buses collided.

The double-deckers were picking up secondary school pupils from a housing estate in Skerne Park, Darlington, co. Durham, when one bus went the wrong way down a one-way road and was trying to reverse when it collided with the other vehicle.

Many of the injured children ran back to their homes and were taken by their parents to Darlington Memorial Hospital, where they were treated for cuts and bruises. One boy broke his wrist.

Staff at Hummersknott Comprehensive School treated more pupils, who had made their way into class, for minor injuries and shock. David Henderson, the headmaster, said: "The worst injury was the broken wrist. All the children taken to hospital were released after treatment. It has been a lucky escape."

A spokesman for Durham County Council said an investigation into the cause of the accident had been launched. It would appear one of the drivers went through signs saying road closed and access only. He suddenly realised why the signs were there and had to reverse to get back out.

Durham police said the drivers were uninjured and had been interviewed.

THE TIMES requests...

THE TIMES / DILLONS FORUM

MARGARET THATCHER

The Downing Street Years

A unique opportunity to meet the former Prime Minister and question her on her career

The publication next month of the first volume of Margaret Thatcher's memoirs, the inside story of her 11½ years as Britain's first woman prime minister, will be the biggest publishing event of 1993.

The Times, in co-operation with Dillons, are to stage two forums, one in London and another in Leeds, at which Lady Thatcher will speak about her Downing Street years — a unique opportunity for Times readers to hear and question the greatest prime minister since Churchill.

The London forum, chaired by Jeffrey Archer, will be at the Barbican Centre on Tuesday, October 19. The Leeds forum, chaired by Richard Whiteley, is at Leeds Town Hall on Wednesday, October 27. Both start at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £30, which includes a copy of *The Downing Street Years* (HarperCollins, £25).

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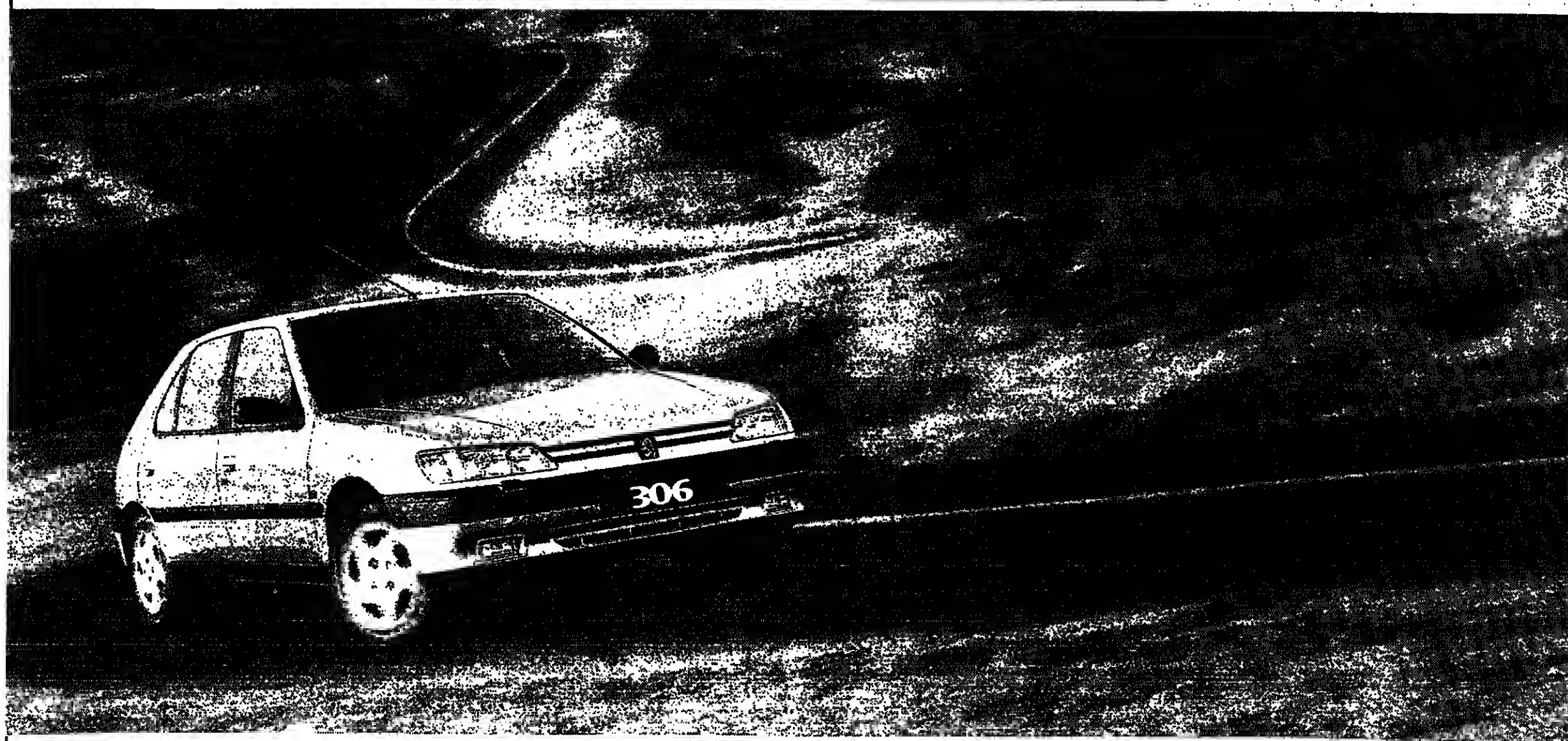
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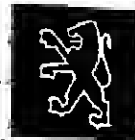


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Discipline reforms stoke fires of police discontent

By Stewart Tandler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE and government were put on course for new confrontation yesterday as Michael Howard, the home secretary, announced a streamlined police disciplinary system, including abolition of some legal safeguards.

Mr Howard, already facing rebellion over the Sheehy report on pay and conditions and white paper proposals for reorganisation, took officers by surprise with his announcement at the conference of the superintendents' association in Torquay, Devon. Earlier this week, the conference criticised the government's efforts to cut crime.

Mr Howard's speech received a polite reception but his announcement led to an immediate threat from the Police Federation, the largest police organisation, to test the disciplinary proposals in court if they reach the statute book. Officers of all ranks complained that the minister had circumvented talks about the system.

Mr Howard told the conference he would end an officer's right to silence under questioning and to legal representation at disciplinary hearings. Officers caught "red-handed" committing serious

■ The home secretary has surprised senior police with his intention to remove officers' right to silence and legal representation

misconduct would be instantly dismissed.

Allegations from poor performance to minor complaints by the public would be handled by a system of warnings, formal hearings and eventual dismissal.

Challenges to dismissal could go to special tribunals. If an officer were acquitted by a court, he would still face a misconduct hearing.

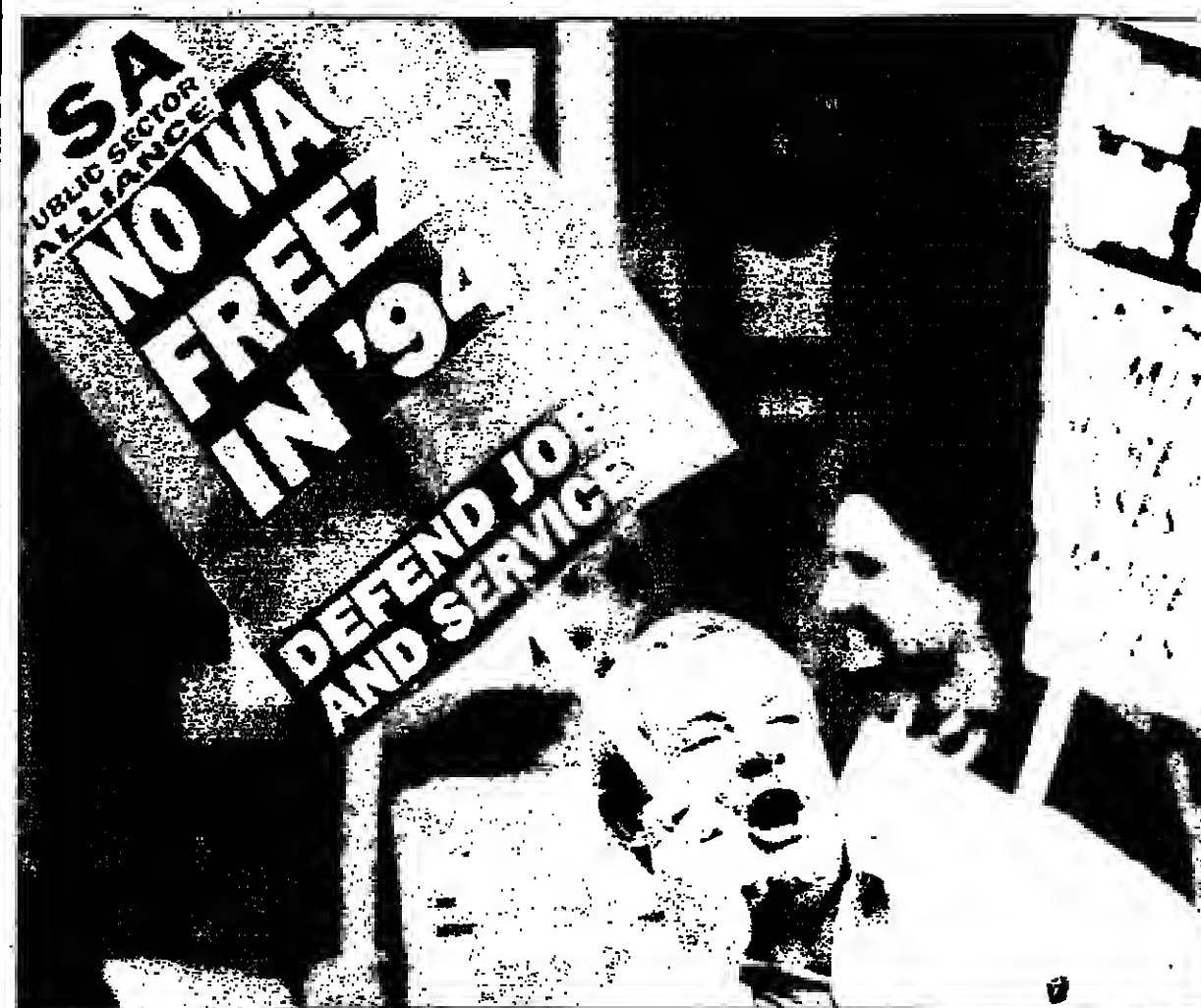
The Home Office believes the proposals bring the police closer to general employment practice. Mr Howard said he wanted to make sure the force operated with the best management practices, which also took account of the special position of police officers.

But Sgt Dick Coyle, chairman of the Police Federation, accused the home secretary of removing from police the rights afforded to criminal suspects. Mr Coyle, who represents 120,000 officers in junior ranks, said they were already demoralised by the Sheehy proposals and Mr Howard was "kicking us while we are down". He said police were entitled

to legal representation when decisions were being taken that might cost them thousands of pounds.

John Burrow, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said senior ranks welcomed many of the proposals because the present disciplinary system was too legalistic. But he was concerned about the way Mr Howard had acted. "The home secretary keeps talking about consultation but I am not sure he is consulting. He is listening but there is no dialogue."

Later, Mr Howard indicated that he may drop some of the more contentious proposals of the Sheehy report. He said: "The question is, do we get [improvements] through the Sheehy route, or are there other ways?"



A protester gives a heated response to the pay freeze outside Congress House in central London yesterday

TUC backs away from pay action

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government won the first victory in its new round of public-sector pay restraint yesterday when trade union leaders pulled back from industrial action.

After dire warnings of an "uprising" in the wake of Kenneth Clarke's announcement last week of another pay squeeze, leaders of 36 unions settled for a co-ordinated campaign to win public support and to "hound" Conservative MPs into persuading the government to abandon its policy.

During a two-hour meeting at TUC headquarters in London, only Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, called for widespread industrial action, and his call was brushed aside by all the other union leaders present.

Britain's 48,000 firefighters seem to be the only pay bargaining group that could resort to industrial action, but even the Fire Brigades Union did not ask the TUC yesterday to extend any protest action it might mount.

Howard insists on Home Office role

By Our Crime Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to reform police authorities, reduce local representation and introduce Home Office appointees will go ahead despite criticism, Michael Howard told the conference of police superintendents.

The plans, announced in a white paper earlier this year, have drawn attacks from police and local authorities, who have said they would centralise police control. Yesterday, the home secretary said the plans were not open to the same consultation as other police reforms.

The white paper on police organisation setting out the change was government policy and would remain government policy, Mr Howard said.

The paper's proposals would mean the end of large police authorities made up of local councillors and magistrates. The new authorities would be reduced to a membership of 16, consisting of eight councillors, three magistrates, and five Home Office nominees who would come from the local community.

Mr Howard told the confer-

ence in Torquay that he had already received many offers from people willing to serve on the authorities. Legislation for the authorities will be introduced in a police bill in the autumn. He added that he expected to give his decision late next month on the Sheehy report on police pay and conditions. The announcement could be made in the form of a ministerial statement in the House of Commons.

Chief Supt David Goulding, president of the superintendents' association, told the home secretary that his members were prepared to talk about the Sheehy report but not its full implementation. The report was at odds with the proposals put forward by the Royal Commission on the Criminal Justice System, he said.

"The Sheehy report is fatally flawed. Implementing the proposals as written would be nothing short of a national disgrace. You will demotivate and destroy the finest police service in the world," Mr. Goulding said.

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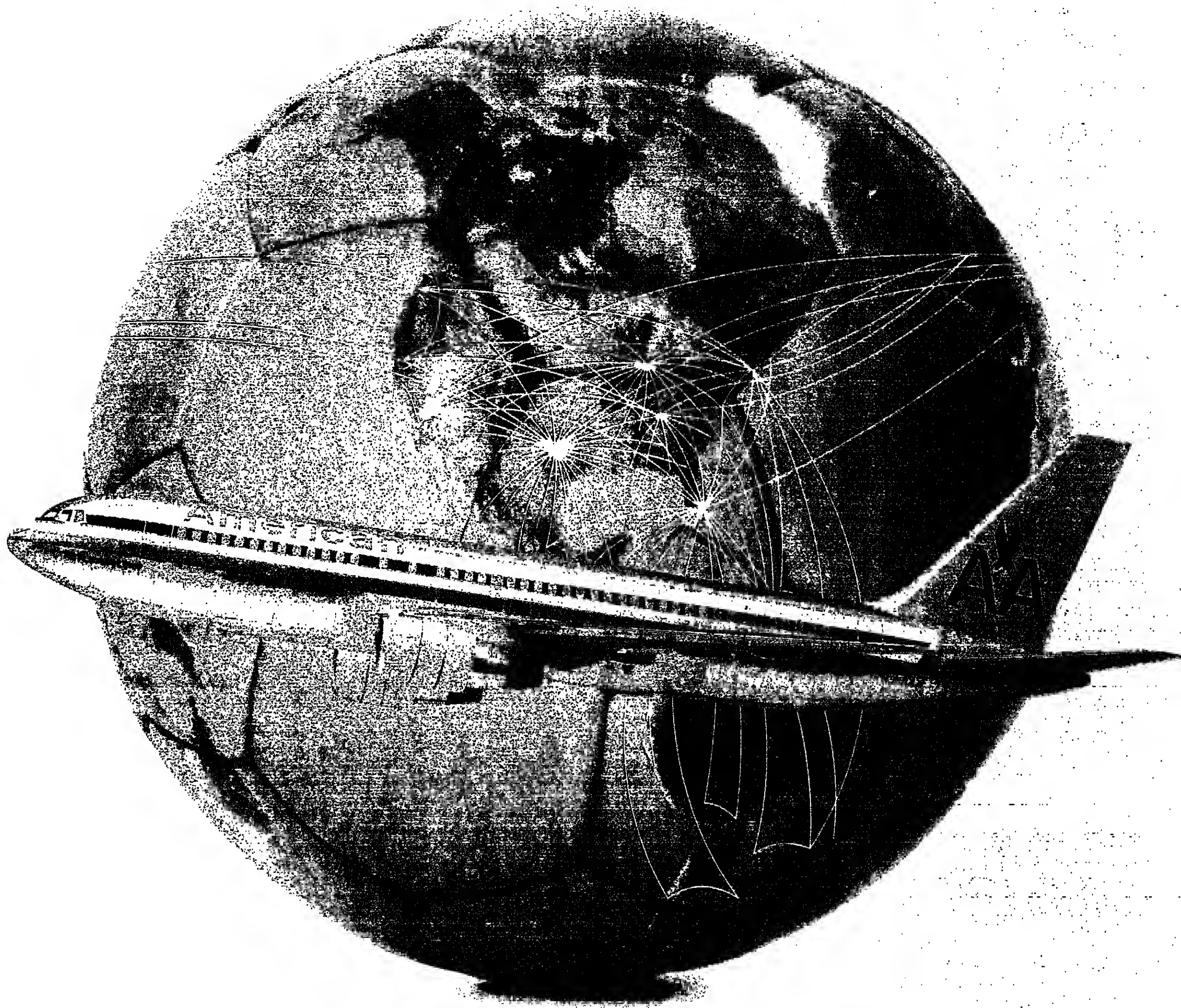
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Short camp left in disarray by surprise departure of Czech grandmaster

Challenger's chief adviser goes home

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short's chief aide in *The Times* World Chess Championship, Lubosh Kavalek, has returned home to Washington, leaving the British champion dangerously short of technical expertise.

Michael Steen, Short's manager, would only say that Kavalek's departure was due to "family reasons". No date has been set for the return of the former Czech grandmaster, the man who has been described as Short's Svengali, mentor and father figure.

Kavalek departed immediately before the disastrous fourth game, during which Short appeared tense and upset.

While Garry Kasparov is supported by a formidable battery of former Soviet grandmasters of the calibre of

Alexander Beliavsky and Zura Abashidze, the Short camp is disorganised and depleted. Not only has Kavalek gone, but Robert Hubner, the powerful German and another key analyst in Short's team, has only been present intermittently. Jon Speelman, the third of Short's aides, is dividing his time between advising the challenger and media duties.

Short now trails by 5½ points to 1½ in the match. Yesterday the two players shared their notes from game seven with *The Times*.

White: Garry Kasparov

Black: Nigel Short

Ruy Lopez

1. e4 e5

If Short is to survive against Kasparov's choice of 1 e4 it is

high time to switch to the French Defence. 1 e4 e6, which is considered extremely solid.

2. Nf3 Nc6

3. Bb5 a6

4. Bb4 Nf6

5. O-O Be7
6. Re1 b5
7. Bb3 O-O

Once again, Short invites the sharp Marshall Gambit.

8. a4

Sidestepping the Marshall (which would occur after 8 c3 d5) Kasparov's choice of opening is most intelligent.

Kasparov: "I am staying faithful to a strategy that is very successful."

8. ... Bb7

9. c3 c6

10. Nbd2 Nd7

11. c5 Nc5

12. a5 a6

13. Bxa6 Bx8

14. Bc2 B6

15. d4 Nf6

16. Nf1 Bb7

17. Ne3 g6

18. Bb3 Bg7

19. N4. Bc8

20. N6. Kf8

21. Nd5 g5

Short: "This was a difficult decision for me. Probably, with hindsight, 21 ... g5h5 would have been more natu-



Nigel Short, left, with his mentor, Lubosh Kavalek, before the championship

ral. In both cases my f5-square is weakened for future occupation by a White knight."

22. Nc3 N4

23. g3 Nh5

24. N5. Bb5

25. a5 Qd7

26. Bg5

Kasparov: "If Short snaps at the pawn with 26 ... Qx5 then 27 Bb5 wins for White."

26 ... N6

Key moment: Kasparov misses a win.

Kasparov: "Short should have played 26 ... Nf6. I now return the compliment by making an error. I should have played 27 Kx2 Qx5 if 27 ... h5g5 28 Rhl wins! 28 Rhl and there are two possibilities: a) 28 ... Nf6 29 Qel Ng8 30 Bb5 Nee! 31 Bxe7 Nxe7 32 Rxb6 Bxb6 33 Qxb6 Kg5 34 Be4

with a winning attack or b) 28 ... Qg6 30 Bb5 h5g5 30 Nxe5 Ne7 31 Rxb6 Kg8 32 Be4 B3 Qb3+ winning."

"Finally, 28 ... Qg6 29 Bb5 Nd8 30 Nxe5 dxe5 31 Qxb5 Qxb5 (if 31 ... Qxd3 32 Bxb5 Qxd5 33 Kgl wins) 32 Rxb5 Kh7 33 Be5 with an overwhelming endgame for me."

27. N4. N6

28. B6. B6

29. Qx5 Nf7

30. Ng2

Kasparov: "I should have played 30 Nf3 Ne7 31 d4 exd4 32 cxd4 when Black has to play 32 ... Ng8, but White still has a big advantage."

31. Ne2 Ng5

Kasparov: "This is a brilliant defensive resource. Short avoids the trap 31 ... Bb5 32 f4 exd4 33 gxf4 Bxf4 34 Bxf7 Bg5 35 f6 Bxf6 36 Ng4 Bg7 37 Nxb6 Bxb6 38 Rxe7 Qxe7 39 Qg6 Kh8 40 Qxb6 checkmate. Alternatively 31 ... Bg5 32 f4 exd4 33 gxf4 Rg8 34 Bxf7 Rg7 35 Bg6 Nxb6 f5g5 and wins."

32. Q4

33. Qx4

Key moment: Short's defence falters

34. Ng4 Bb5

Kasparov: "The end of the game. If Short tries to defend with 24 ... Bb6 then I can finish with a superb queen sacrifice 35 Qxb6 Nxb6 36 Nxb6 followed by knight taking the Black queen on d7."

35. Nxb6

36. Bb7

Short: "Kasparov played well. It was the first time in this championship that he has genuinely won by playing a good game against me rather than by my mistakes."

37. Bb7

38. Bb7

39. Bb7

40. Bb7

41. Bb7

42. Bb7

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100. Bb7

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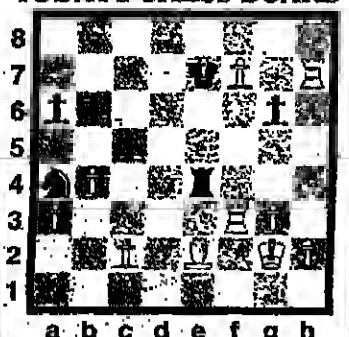
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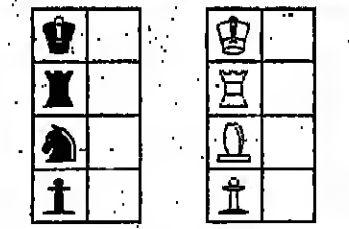
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Extracts from unpublished encyclical reveal Vatican's anxiety over teachings of liberal Catholics

Pope condemns catalogue of intrinsic sexual evils

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Pope, in addition to unambiguously confirming his condemnation of contraception, uses his new encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* to justify his stand against homosexuality, premarital sex and other sexual "evils".

The encyclical, to be published early next month, asserts: "If acts are intrinsically evil, a good intention or particular circumstance can diminish their evil, but they cannot remove it. They remain 'irremediably' evil acts, *per se* and in themselves they are not capable of being ordered to God and to the good of the person. Consequently, circumstances or intentions can never transform an act intrinsically evil by virtue of its object into an act 'subjectively' good or defensible as a choice."

These passages show the extent of papal alarm at the spread of liberal morals and theology. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Pope says, "there have developed

certain interpretations of Christian morality which are not consistent with 'sound teaching'. The magisterium [teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church] has the duty to state that some trends of theological thinking and certain philosophical affirmations are incompatible with revealed truth."

His intention is "to state the principles necessary for discerning what is contrary to 'sound doctrine', drawing attention to those elements of the church's moral teaching which today appear particularly exposed to error, ambiguity or neglect."

"Certain currents of modern thought have gone so far as to exalt freedom to such an extent that it becomes an absolute, which would then be the source of values. This is the direction taken by doctrines which have lost the sense of the transcendent or which are explicitly atheist."

"Some people... have actu-

ally posited a complete sovereignty of reason in the domain of moral norms regarding the right ordering of life in this world. These trends of thought have led to a denial, in opposition to sacred scripture and the church's constant teaching, of the fact that the natural moral law has God as its author, and that man, by the use of reason, participates in the eternal law."

"In this context, objections of physicalism and naturalism have been levelled against the traditional conception of the natural law, which is accused of presenting as moral laws what are in themselves mere biological laws... According to certain theologians, this kind of 'biological' or naturalistic argumentation would even be present in certain documents of the church's magisterium, particularly those dealing with the area of sexual and conjugal ethics."

"It was, they maintain, on

the basis of a naturalistic understanding of the sexual act that contraception, direct sterilisation, autoeroticism, homosexual relations and artificial insemination were condemned as morally unacceptable. In the opinion of some theologians, a morally negative evaluation of such acts fails to take into adequate consideration both man's character as a rational and free being and the cultural conditioning of all moral norms."

The Pope continues: "A doctrine which dissociates the moral act from the bodily dimensions of its exercise is contrary to the teachings of scripture and tradition. Such a doctrine revives, in new forms, certain ancient errors which have always been opposed by the church."

Contraception 'evil', page 1
Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19



John Paul II attacks "currents of modern thought"

Message attacks the quest for illusory freedom

By OUR RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Pope begins his encyclical by condemning those who "live by the flesh".

Obedience to the truth is not always easy, he says. "As a result of that mysterious original sin, man is constantly tempted to turn his gaze away from the living and true God to direct it towards idols."

Thus, giving himself over to relativism and scepticism, he goes off in search of an illusory freedom apart from truth itself. But no darkness of error or of sin can totally take away from man the light of God the Creator.

"The development of science and technology... does not free humanity from the obligation to ask the ultimate religious questions. Rather, it spurs us on to face the most painful and decisive of struggles, those of the heart and of the moral conscience."

A new situation has come about within the Christian community itself, which has experienced the spread of numerous doubts and objections. It is no longer a matter of limited and occasional dissent, but of an overall and systematic calling into question of traditional moral doctrine, on the basis of anthropological and ethical presuppositions.

Thus, the traditional doctrine regarding the natural law, and the universality and the permanent validity of its precepts, is rejected: certain of the church's moral teachings are found simply unacceptable; and the magisterium itself is considered capable of intervening in matters of morality only to "exhort consciences" and to "propose values", in the light of which each individual will independently make his or her decisions and life choices.

"In particular, note should be taken of the lack of harmony between the traditional response of the Church and certain theological positions, encountered even in Seminar-

ies and in Faculties of Theology, with regard to questions of the greatest importance for the church."

Chapter One opens with a reference to Christ's dialogue with the rich young man, who is told to sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. The Pope quotes St Augustine: "The beginning of freedom is to be free from crimes... such as murder, adultery, fornication, theft, fraud, sacrilege and so forth."

Those who live "by the flesh" experience God's law as a burden, and indeed as a denial or at least a restriction of their own freedom. On the other hand, those who are impelled by love and "walk by the spirit", and who desire to serve others, find in God's law the fundamental and necessary way in which to practise love as something freely chosen and freely lived out.

He repeats Christ's rejection of the right to divorce and his reference to the charism of celibacy "for the Kingdom of Heaven", which will be seen as a sign that there is no softening on priestly celibacy.

"The moral prescriptions which God imparted in the old covenant, and which attained their perfection in the new and eternal covenant in the very person of the Son of God made man, must be faithfully kept and continually put into practice in the various different cultures throughout the course of history."

"No damage must be done to the harmony between faith and life: the unity of the church is damaged not only by Christians who reject or distort the truths of faith but also by those who disregard the moral obligations to which they are called by the gospel... And ever since apostolic times, the church's pastors have unambiguously condemned the behaviour of those who fostered division by their teaching or by their actions."

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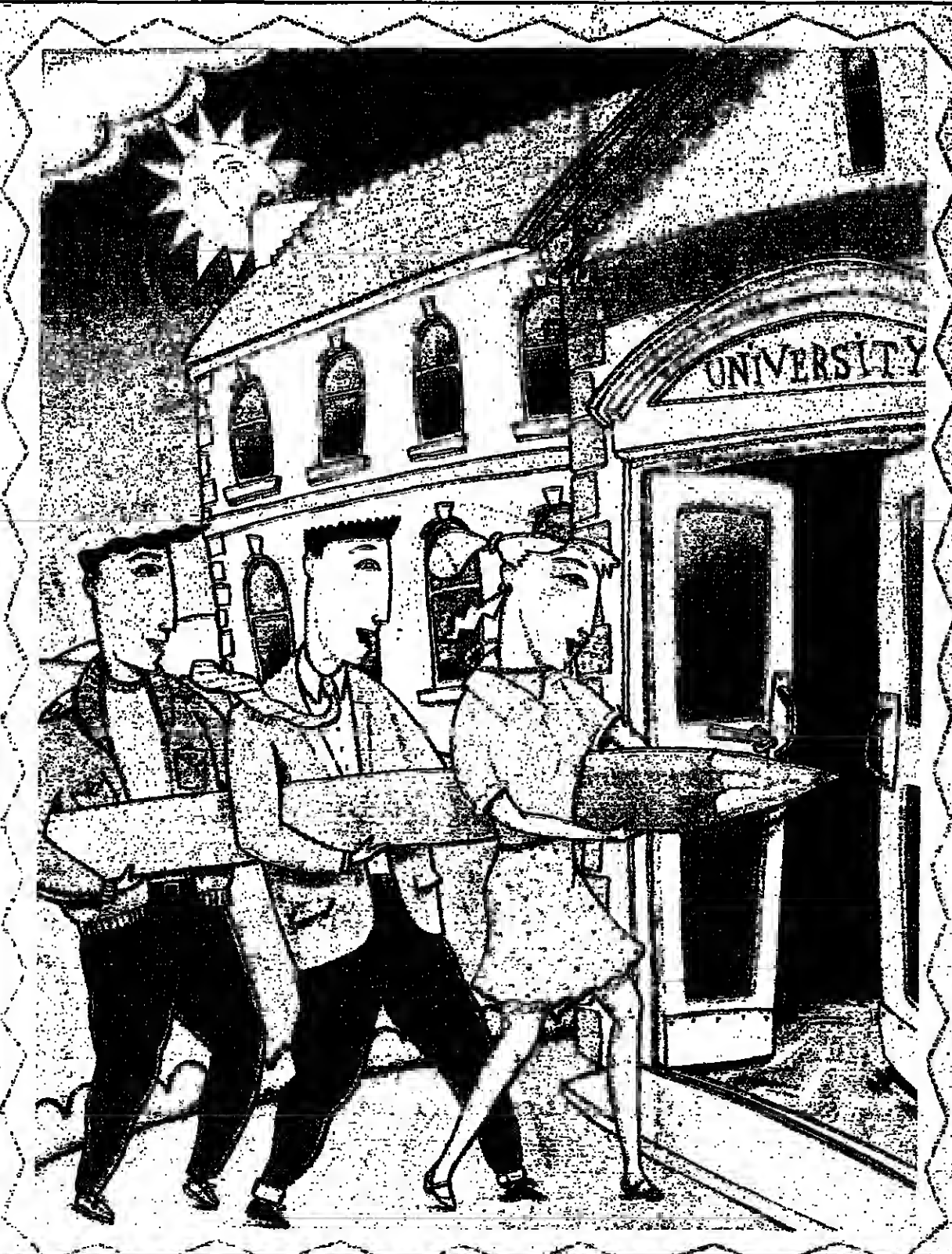
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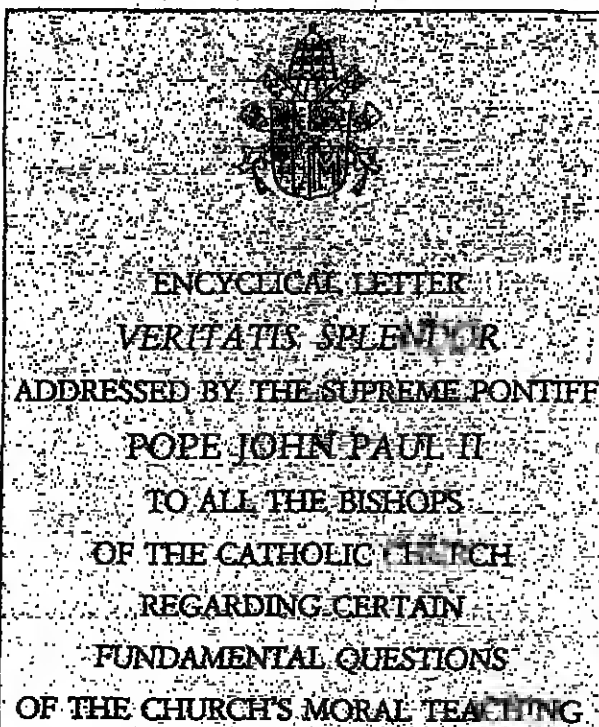


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The letter to all bishops of the Catholic Church

Rules on morality offer no exception

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THERE must be no exceptions to rules of behaviour on universal morals which protect against evil, the Pope argues in the third chapter. He also criticises dissenting theologians.

"The church's teaching, and in particular her firmness in defending the universal and permanent validity of the precepts prohibiting intrinsically evil acts, is not infrequently seen as the sign of an intolerable intransigence. The church, one hears, is lacking in understanding and compassion."

"The church's firmness in defending the universal and unchanging moral norms is not demeaning at all." These norms are a guarantee of genuine democracy, which can come into being and develop only on the basis of the equality of all its members... When it is a matter of the moral norms prohibiting intrinsic evil, there are no privileges or exceptions for

criterion of the truth about the good, so that he can feel self-justified, without even the need to have recourse to God and his mercy.

"An attitude of this sort corrupts the morality of society as a whole, since it encourages doubt about the objectivity of the moral law in general and a rejection of the absoluteness of moral prohibitions regarding specific human acts."

Dechristianisation, which is affecting communities once rich in faith and Christian life, involves "a decline or obscuring of the moral sense."

The church's magisterium "carries out an important work of vigilance, warning the faithful of the presence of possible errors, even merely implicit ones, when their consciences fail to acknowledge the correctness and the truth of the moral norms."

"Certainly, moral theology and its teaching are meeting with particular difficulties in

Arson attacks force charity to scrap sex offender unit

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A SERIES of arson attacks has forced a charity to abandon plans to open a centre treating child sex offenders.

Trustees of the Faithful Foundation, which wanted to convert The Boynes, a nursing home near Upton upon Severn in Hereford and Worcester, to treat long-term seducers of children, had to drop their plan because of the costs involved in protecting the premises from arson and other threats used by opponents. The trustees were also worried by anonymous telephone calls made to people hired to run the centre, and believed their work would suffer in an atmosphere where the gates were picketed.

Alan Gilmore, one of the trustees, said: "Some of our opponents were crazy, some were malicious and I think some of them were thoroughly nice, responsible people who were scared stiff about the wellbeing of their children."

It is the second time in a few months that the charity, headed by Baroness Faithfull, has had to abandon proposals to open a centre to give therapy for up to 26 men. Previous plans to open in Coventry were abandoned after two firebomb attacks.

Trustees are alarmed that protesters are using such tactics to force charities to abandon plans for centres treating sex offenders or people with drug problems. Once a building has been firebombed, insurance cover is difficult to obtain and costs are pushed up by the need for stringent security.

The foundation was unable to find insurance cover for the

Coventry building and it was only after special pleading by the trustees that a firm was persuaded to provide cover for The Boynes. One person associated with the project said yesterday: "What happened here is just urban terrorism. If people cannot stop things democratically, they resort to direct action."

The first attack was on the hedge, followed by others on the electricity supply pole, in the courtyard and in a garage which caused £14,000 of damage. A man in his forties has been charged in connection with one of the attacks.

The foundation had to surround the premises with stringent security including a 6ft high perimeter fence, a second internal fence, security lighting, closed-circuit television plus two security guards and a dog. The security bill was £2,000 a week and the insurance company ordered that the measures remain in force for at least a year.

Rodney Reid, general manager of the foundation, said: "The proposal was becoming financially unviable. We also withdrew because of fears for the safety of the staff and because it was doubtful whether it would have been possible to conduct therapy with that sort of opposition."

The foundation is seeking another site on the edge of an open prison or next to a psychiatric hospital or secure unit.

Andrew Perrins, chairman of the committee that lead the opposition, said: "Everyone feels relief that they are going. We genuinely think that it posed a danger to us."



Barnacle geese migrating south from Greenland touch down on Islay for a profitable winter welcome

Farmers greet marauding geese as paying guests

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS on the Hebridean island of Islay are being asked to view the previously unwelcome autumn invasion by thousands of geese as another livestock herd for which they will be paid per head.

The geese cause havoc, tearing up pasture and destroying fodder crops, but Scottish Natural Heritage is now offering farmers a compensation scheme of about £9 for every goose on their fields.

About 35,000 barnacle and white-fronted geese will winter on the

island, the most southerly of the Inner Hebrides. The geese represent a large proportion of the world population of their species and virtually no field on the island, which is only 25 by 20 miles, is safe from them.

The geese, which migrate from Greenland to the Scottish island, arrive in the second week of October and leave in April. Farmers have for long tried hard to prevent the birds destroying grazing pastures. Schemes have been started to scare them away and special sanctuaries established on the island by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Now the farmers are being paid to

manage the geese as if they were sheep or cows. About £300,000 has been set aside for Scottish Natural Heritage's goose management scheme, details of which will be sent soon to the Scottish Office for approval. The scheme was first introduced in pilot form last year, and it proved so successful that it is to be extended for another three years.

Ross Lilley, Scottish Natural Heritage's goose project manager on Islay, says that last year 109 of Islay's 130 farmers joined the scheme. "They are asked to allow the geese to graze freely on the farm and not to disturb them unduly," he says. A count of the birds

is then made on each farm every fortnight and payment for every goose is calculated. It was £9 last year, when £292,000 was paid to Islay farmers. The figure this year will depend on how many geese arrive.

David Mitchell, of the RSPB, says the geese are an internationally important population and Britain has agreed to protect them. The RSPB has bought several farms on the island, which it manages to attract the migratory birds. "The geese eat the grass and it does regenerate quite quickly, but I must say a field which has had several hundred geese feeding on it does look pretty terrible."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maid was 'treated like sister'

A doctor accused of treating her maid like a slave claimed the woman made up the allegations because she was being sent home to Trinidad. A court was told yesterday.

Radha Tripathi, 30, and her husband Ramesh, 32, a surgeon, deny assaulting Cindy Dindial, 25, at their Lincoln home. Lincoln Crown Court heard that Mrs Tripathi told police she had treated Miss Dindial like a sister, but her work was unsatisfactory. The trial continues.

Murder charge

Kamali Kumar Sharma, 36, was remanded in custody for a week by Hendon magistrates accused of murdering his wife Miran, 30, whose body was found after a fire at their home in Edgware, north London.

M26 robbery

Two men, one dressed as a policeman, escaped with a large quantity of jewellery after flagging down an American jewellery trader on the M26 near Sevenoaks, Kent.

Shooting arrest

A third man is being questioned about the shooting of Nicola Lumsden, 19, who is in a critical condition after being hit in the head outside a pub in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Hard to refuse

Aid workers from the New Forest have bought a second-hand dustcart for Breaza in Romania.

MEPs scorn curb on motorcycle power

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN regulations that would restrict the soaring exports of a British motorcycle manufacturer are to be scrapped.

European MPs have given notice that they will reject legislation ordered by the 12 Community governments to limit the power of motorcycles to under 100 brake horsepower within five years for safety reasons. MPs said the rules were "meddling" and would have hit European companies, such as Triumph, which have become world leaders

after being almost wiped out by Japanese competition. Roger Barton, a Labour MEP, said: "What a crazy policy to ban the very machines that are putting the European motorcycle industry back on the map."

Executives at Triumph yesterday welcomed the decision that almost certainly means the plan will not go ahead. The company was worried that bike sales, which have spearheaded its revival in the past three years, would have been stopped in their tracks.

Tug bails out drought-hit Shetlanders

By OUR SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

MONTHS of drought in the Shetlands has forced the local council to bring in water supplies by boat. A 250,000 gallon reservoir at Out Skerries, to the north of the mainland, has just one foot of water while the island's 330,000 gallon dam is empty.

Shetland Islands Council is shipping 35 tonnes of water a day to the 80 islands on board a tug. It is then pumped ashore through fire hoses.

Arthur Tait, the council's divisional manager for water and drainage, said that no official notices banning the use of hosepipes had been issued to the islanders. "But the official from the water board has spoken to all the inhabitants personally. It's a small island and people know to be careful," he said.

A spokesman for the Met Office said that rainfall in the Shetlands over the past three months was less than 75 per cent of its average.

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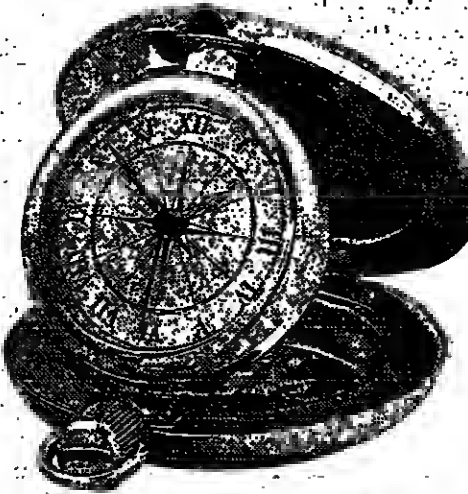
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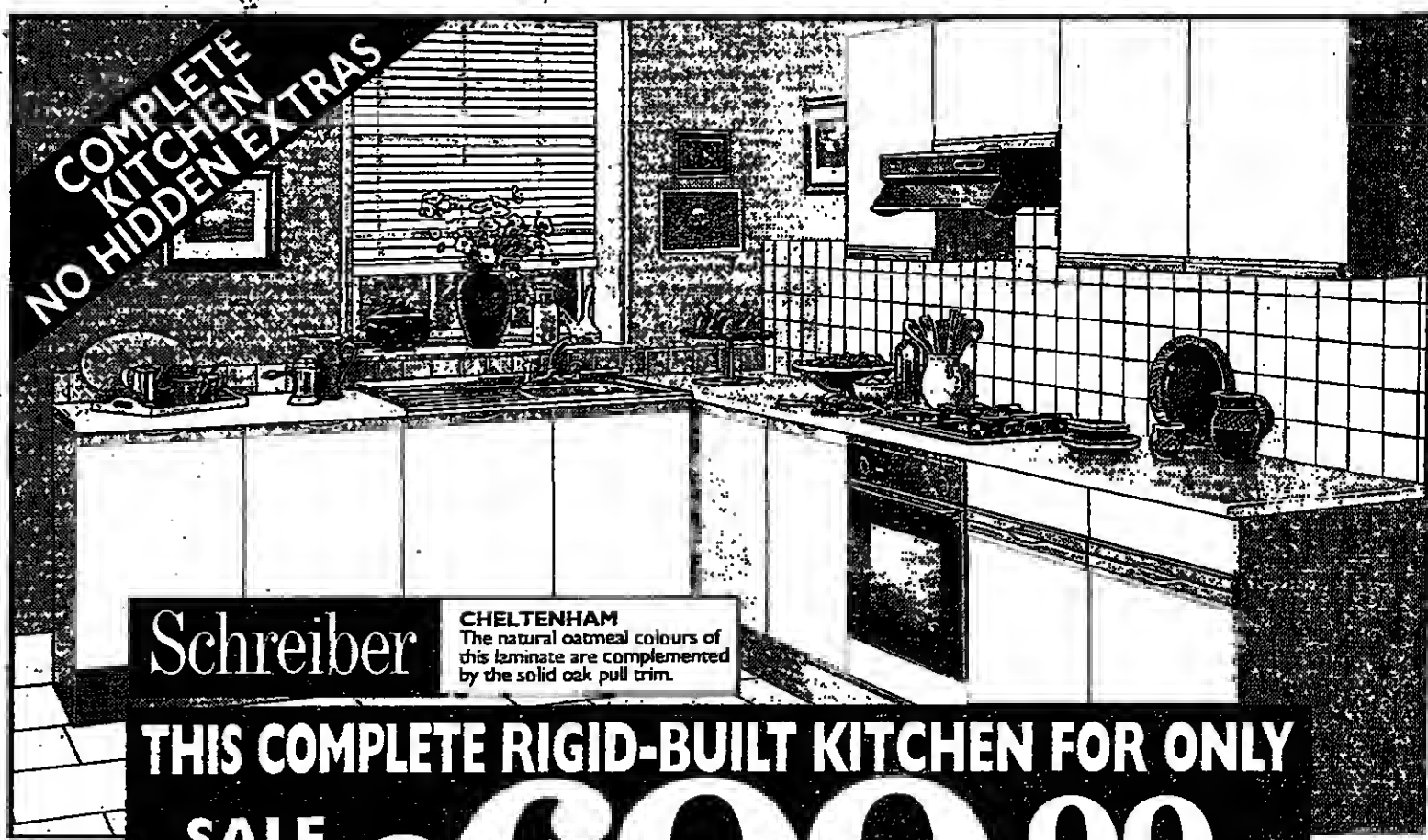
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Beith calls for higher borrowing to invest in housing and transport

Panic could 'snuff out economic recovery'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's panic reaction to the sharp rise in public debt could snuff out the first signs of economic recovery, Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrats Treasury spokesman, said yesterday.

He supported additional public borrowing to fund investment in construction, housing, transport and energy efficiency. However, he refused to take a stand on whether income tax should be raised in November's Budget to help to cut the deficit.

Opening the party's debate on the government's economic policy, Mr Beith embarked on the high-risk strategy of supporting re-entry to the European exchange-rate mechanism in the long term, followed by swift moves towards a single European currency.

"Ultimately, Europe still needs a single currency," he said. "A single currency actually holds out the opportunity for low interest rates, investment and jobs."

Mr Beith's comments surprised some activists who had urged the leadership to back away from its commitment to a single currency after the debacle in the European currency market in recent years.

Despite Mr Beith's robust speech, the party appeared divided over its future economic and employment policies. The party leadership has set up a commission under Lord Dahrendorf but many at the conference appeared unhappy that the party's key economic debate focused on

the government's economic policy rather than its own.

Clearly sensitive to the charge, Mr Beith said: "We are the last people who can be accused of having economic policies. It is a charge which is mainly levelled by those who see a clear economic policy only in total laissez-faire or in total state domination of the economy."

He was urged to give more emphasis in party policy to fighting unemployment and low pay by Sarah Tustin, from Watford, who called for the restoration of wages councils.

Peter Walker, of Warrington South, said the idea of an autonomous Bank of England filled him with horror. The party had a perfectly sensible economic policy without deciding at this stage to support an independent bank.

Hilary Whitaker, from Beckenham recalled that a year ago the conference was asked to support moves towards a single currency. The party was "saved" from the consequences of that policy by sterling falling out of the ERM in the same week. "We should be in a hurry to get back to a fixed exchange rate," he said.

Snart Callison, representing Croydon Central, spoke out against the support for an early settlement of the Gatt world trade talks. Free trade was deeply damaging non-sense because 500 multi-national companies controlled two-thirds of all world trade.

Leading article, page 19



Short on detailed Liberal Democrat strategy, Alan Beith pokes fun at the Chancellor's prescription for the economy

'Proven racists' to be expelled

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL STAFF

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday passed an emergency motion calling for "proven racists" to be evicted from council houses and dismissed from council jobs.

Spurred on by the Tower Hamlets race dispute and a wave of unrest in East London after last week's by-election victory by the far-right British National Party, representatives at the Liberal Democrat conference gave almost unanimous support to the motion.

During the debate Akbar Ali, chairman of Mossley Hill Liberal Democrats in Liverpool, said that the motion did not go far enough. "I am well aware of the allegations at Tower Hamlets," he said. "This matter has been simmering for seven years. This cancer of racism must be removed from society and our party."

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS IN TORQUAY



Mr Ali, a 68-year-old retired electrical engineer, said he had written to Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, alerting him to the problem when he first heard the allegations seven years ago from Bangladeshi constituents who lived 275 miles away in Mossley Hill.

"Again the matter came up in the 1992 general election," he said, but it was "con-

veniently forgotten". Urging the conference to vote for the motion he said: "This matter can't be forgotten. We should not allow it to be brushed under the carpet. I shall raise the matter again and again until it is resolved."

Simon Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey opened the debate calling for an end to street violence and a peaceful response to recent events in the East End and southeast London. Pointing to statistics showing that ethnic minorities are more likely to be victims of crime and that clear-up rates vary from 65 per cent to 17 per cent in London, he said: "The general trend is unacceptable and must be halted. The way we are going we could have cities like New York and states like Florida."

Chris Davies, from Gower, was one of two representatives

who raised objections. "We must beat racism not ban it. You can't ban a social cancer. The right of free speech is fundamental to Liberal Democrats," he said. Bob Todd, from Cannock and Burnwood, said: "This is not Liberal. If we drive them underground they will become even more insidious."

Liberal Democrat Youth and Students yesterday called on Rupert Allason, the Tory MP for Torbay, to expel Mark Cotterill from the Torbay Conservative Association because they say he was the National Front's southwest regional organiser at the last general election. Kiron Reid, the chairman, said: "Mark Cotterill must explicitly reject the disgusting politics of racism and fascism. If not, the Conservative party is being infiltrated by the far right."

Delegates learn to practise 'safe' politics

"HERE, do have mine, I'm not sure I'll be needing it." The elderly Liberal lady beside me handed me her condom. The Terrence Higgins Trust have been distributing free "party packs" to delegates in an effort to heighten awareness of safe sexual practices, and the old lady had found one placed on her chair at a meeting to discuss the spread of Aids. So had I.

Spectacles perched on her nose, her white hair swept up into a bun, she had at first seemed uncertain what the brightly coloured packet contained. I hesitated before accepting her gift, debating whether it would be more gallant to insist she might need it... but decided to accept a condom with a good grace.

The young chap on my right grinned. "Have mine, too. I was hoping for romance this week, but these days at Liberal Democrat conferences the women assume you're gay. I was wondering where I could get a Glad To Be Straight badge."

Condoms now spilling from my pockets, I returned to the conference hall.

The day began with a decision whose consequences could be profound. By next week, tens of millions may find themselves sacked and homeless. In an "emergency" debate on race relations, delegates voted to evict from council housing, and expel from employment in local government, "proven racists". As this term must apply to at least half the fellow-countrymen I meet, welfare agencies may soon be swamped with destitute former council tenants, dustmen, drivers and road diggers. Services may grind to a halt.

But of course the resolution will not be acted upon. It is part of a growing curse among Liberal Democrats: the appetite for "declaratory" measures, which nobody seriously intends to observe, but which nobody has the guts to oppose. Defective resolutions whose hearts are in the right place are adopted simply to give delegates a warm feeling. The practice is common on

the Continent, and seems to be growing in Torquay.

The Liberal leadership talks a lot about honesty: about listening and bringing the people into decision-making; but is this careless disregard for language not the deepest sort of cynicism? "Oh, let them have their resolution; they'll have forgotten by next week." Thus is the language of politics debased by the very men who go on to complain that our political culture has been corrupted. Lady Thatcher would never have stood for a resolution like yesterday's. She would have stormed that it was nonsense, had it blocked, and been called "autocratic" for her pains. Paddy Ashdown just smiles, takes no notice and is called a Democrat.

But when one speaker in the racism debate—a Tower Hamlets councillor—told the delegates that he had just visited two victims of racial attacks in hospital, one black and one white, he was very feebly applauded. Your modern Liberal Democrat divides his world into lists: categories are deemed

MATTHEW PARRIS

favoured or otherwise: rewards or punishments are awarded as appropriate. He does not wish to be confused. Heaven help the first party conference to debate racism among disabled gays. The podium would probably blow a fuse.

As the debate moved to "gender" engineering, I struck up conversations with one of the young conference centre employees monitoring the fire escapes. He was incredulous.

"They all seem so interested if you know, there are people of my age in there. Can't they play football or something? All these people come here voluntarily-like! Why aren't they outside enjoying themselves?"

I was unable to answer him.



Diary, page 18

Ashdown: working on the fine print

Tackling crime with the ill-gotten gains

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

CONVICTED criminals will pay towards a national crime prevention campaign under plans approved by Liberal Democrats yesterday. A "surcharge" will be added to court fines and channelled into funds aimed at curbing the crime rate, which has doubled since 1981.

Delegates at the party's Torquay conference passed a motion calling for up to 10 per cent to be added to all fines levied by courts for criminal offences. The move, which could treble the £16 million now spent on crime prevention schemes, came amid Liberal Democrat anger at government attitudes to tackling the rise in crime.

Conference speakers condemned the absence of crime prevention techniques as fueling the fears of women and the elderly in inner cities and rural areas. Delegates claimed that the fear of crime deterred

thousands of pensioners from leaving their homes at night and argued that cheap but effective community action could substantially cut the number of minor crimes, such as burglaries, vandalism and car theft.

The party has monitored crime-stopping programmes operated by councils under its control and claims reductions of 80 per cent in some crime rates.

Some delegates opposed the surcharge scheme, however, claiming that many court fines were already uncollected and arguing that such a system would simply add further financial penalties on those driven to crime through poverty.

Diana Maddock, the MP for Christchurch, called on Michael Howard, the home secretary, to make prevention work a high priority in his plans to combat crime.

Rousing the faithful with set texts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown will sound a surprisingly sombre note today when he warns Liberal Democrats to respond to the voters' faith in them by behaving responsibly.

As he sends his troops away at the close of the party's autumn conference, the party leader will talk about the hopes of voters now resting with the Liberal Democrats. He will urge delegates to turn that hope into trust and confidence, both in the party and the future of Britain.

Despite his talk of "a breakthrough" earlier this week, Mr Ashdown has been urged by close advisers to stay clear today of telling his party to prepare for government. Instead, he is likely to emphasise the instability in British politics where anything could happen.

Although the activists are buoyed up by the two by-election wins and council victories, their leaders will warn them to expect increas-

ingly bitter attacks from Conservatives and Labour. Party aides predict that this week's outbursts by Labour's Jack Straw are a prelude to a winter campaign against them because Liberal Democrats will pose the greatest challenge to Labour in many London and metropolitan council seats next spring.

The party leader has no plans to follow John Major by tossing aside the antiques and speaking off the cuff to his party. No soap box waits in the wings of Torquay's Riviera centre.

Mr Ashdown first stood before the mangled remains of the old Alliance in 1988 as leader of the new merged party. Since then he has honed his speaking style, with help from Liz Lynne, the former actress who is MP for Rochdale. Learning changes of pace and tone, the importance of rhythm and how to exploit the two autoco screens, have all helped to

ease the woodenness which still plagues Mr Major.

Work on today's speech, his sixth to the autumn conference, started two months ago with a meeting of his inner circle. Two veterans with an influential oversight of the finished text are Lord Holme of Chichester, the policy guru, and Tom McNally, formerly speechwriter for Harold Wilson and James Callaghan.

Although Mr Ashdown keeps hands-on control of the content, he has brought fresh blood into his speech-writing team this autumn. The new faces are Nick South, Mr Ashdown's research officer; Neil Sherlock, from the Peat Marwick finance house and the party's candidate in southwest Surrey; and David Vigar, Paddy's political aide who recently defected from BBC Today programme, where he was an editor.

Salmond urges SNP to focus on Europe

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ALEX Salmond, the leader of the Scottish Nationalists, yesterday called on his party to forget the failure of the last general election and to set its sights on Europe. Opening the SNP's annual conference in Dunoon, Argyll, Mr Salmond said: "Our strength in votes as well as opinion polls is demonstrated by the fact that we have gained more votes than any other party in local by-elections since the general election."

The SNP managed to increase its share of the vote in Scotland from 14 per cent to 21.5 per cent at the last general election but it won only three seats at Westminster. The Liberal Democrats hung on to their nine Scottish seats despite seeing their share of the vote fall from 19.2 per cent to 13.1 per cent.

The SNP has been given a boost in recent days by an opinion poll which shows them in second place in Scotland with 23 per cent of the vote. Labour has 53 per cent,

the Tories 13 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 10 per cent.

A buoyant standing in the opinion polls may not be enough to ensure Mr Salmond a successful conference. He is facing increasing resentment from some party members over his brash style and, what they see, as his unilateral decision-making. Some members have yet to forgive him for forming an alliance with the Tories during the Maastricht debate. Mr Salmond is aiming to raise support in Scotland for his party to 30 per cent in the European elections which would ensure a team of MEPs in Strasbourg.

In recent months he has carefully distanced himself from the anti-English nationalist wing of the party by stating that England is not to blame for Scotland's problems. The SNP is hoping that a more moderate approach will eventually win over more middle-aged voters to the idea of an independent Scotland within Europe.

Smith to stake credibility on his personal trade union reforms plan

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN Smith has decided to stake his authority as Labour leader on pushing through his hotly contested plans to reform his party's links with the trade unions.

In a high-risk move announced yesterday to a meeting of the ruling national executive, Mr Smith is to make an appeal to the Labour conference in Brighton next week for support for his plans to end the formal role of the unions in selecting parliamentary candidates. Mr Smith, who faces a strong possibility of defeat, is to gamble in a final attempt to swing wavering unions and constituency parties behind him.

He wants to bring them face-to-face with the damage they could do to Labour's cause if they rebuff his plans to allow only party members to select its candidates and deselect MPs.

In an unusual departure, Mr Smith has decided to take

the issue head-on by delivering a speech opening next Wednesday's debate on the union link. It will follow his traditional keynote speech to the conference on Tuesday.

In the final days before the vote, desperate efforts are being launched to bring the unions and activists to Mr Smith's side. A special meeting for constituency delegates, who will have 30 per cent of the vote, is to be staged in Brighton on Sunday.

The decision to delay the debate until Wednesday means that most of next week's conference will be dominated by the issue of Labour and the unions. Some senior party figures want the debate to be disposed of on Monday, enabling Mr Smith to enjoy the remainder of what might have been a trouble-free conference. Mr Smith regards the matter as so vital that he wants to allow time for the unions and party members to



Smith: postponing the debate to Wednesday

understand fully the importance he attaches to his plans.

The Labour leader surprised and delighted NEC colleagues yesterday when he told them that because he had played a leading role in constructing the changes "it is right that I should put the case to conference". Larry Whitty, the general secretary, said:

"He is making his personal commitment to the package clear."

Unless some unions make unexpected changes in their stance, there is a chance that the conference could vote down up to five different formulas, including Mr Smith's preferred option of allowing union members to join the party at a cut-price rate of £3 to allow them to take part in the start of next year's elections, and Mr Whitty hinted that the NEC might be forced to impose its will.

Mr Smith was yesterday urged to get rid of Clause 4, the Labour party's commitment to public ownership, as part of a radical approach to modernise the party. A report from a group of Labour MPs described the clause as an "ancestral shrine which has long ceased to have a living presence".



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Gaza assassination brings fears of Palestinian feud

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THOUSANDS of Gazans turned out yesterday to pay their last respects to Muhammad Abu Shaaban, the Palestine Liberation Organisation activist, and to pray that his assassination by fellow Arabs is not the beginning of an internecine feud between rival Palestinian groups.

In what has amounted to the most serious challenge yet to the peaceful transfer of Israeli power to Palestinian self-rule, masked gunmen in two cars intercepted and murdered the local leader on Tuesday as he returned from a rally in support of last week's peace deal between Israel and the PLO.

Last night leading Palestinian figures, including Yasser Arafat, the PLO's information chief, and Fehi Abu Meidien, Mr Abu Shaaban's fellow lawyer in Gaza, tried to play down the professional assassination as a criminal attack rather than a political murder.

Privately, however, there was little doubt in the minds of most Palestinians, including supporters of the mainstream Fatah group loyal to Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, that the killing was politically motivated and could herald further revenge murders between rival groups.

Sources in Gaza said that the murdered activist was either killed in a power struggle with fellow Fatah members, jockeying for position ahead of the handover of power, or was murdered on the orders of one of the ten radical groups opposed to the peace agreement.

Whatever the motives, Mr Abu Shaaban's niece Maha accurately summed up the effect of what she called an assassination. "They wanted to sabotage peace," she said in what many fear is a return of the violent legacy of Palestinian politics.

In 1936 thousands died in the so-called Great Revolt, when a bloody feud erupted

Mubarak expects deal on Golan

Cairo: President Mubarak of Egypt, trying to forge peace between Israel and Syria, said yesterday that a deal was now close on Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights (Christopher Walker writes). His forecast was published as President Assad of Syria arrived for a two-day meeting in Alexandria.

An Arab diplomat said that Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, was ready in principle to withdraw and to accept multinational supervision, but not immediately; he needed some months to lessen political pressure at home.



between supporters and opponents of compromise with the Jews in Palestine. In exile, the PLO fought a bitter civil war in 1983 in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. More recently, during the five-year Intifada, about 750 Palestinians, accused of collaborating with Israel, were murdered by fellow Arabs.

Although responsibility for law and order is supposed to be granted to a "strong Palestinian police force" first in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho within the coming five months, and later throughout all the occupied

territories, the possibility of inter-factional fighting could seriously challenge the whole concept of self-rule.

Certainly in the reeling refugee camps of the Gaza Strip, where the Intifada was born, there is little sense that a police force made up largely of Palestinian guerrillas now outside the territories has the ability to enforce the law if the situation deteriorates.

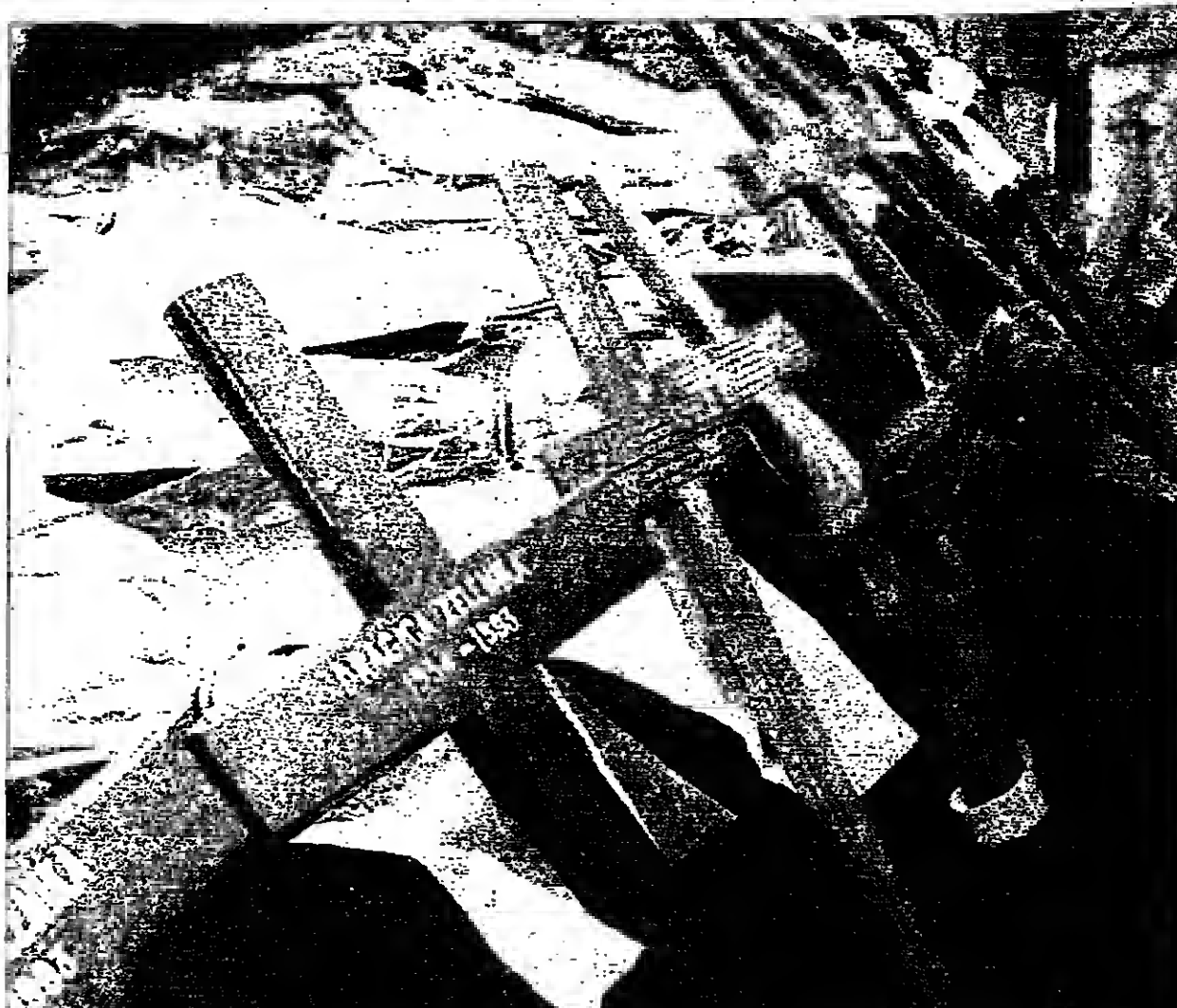
The hostility to Mr Arafat and the administration he hopes to create in the territories is already growing in some of Gaza's most squalid refugee camps, such as Shati and Shaikh Radwan.

These Palestinian policemen who are coming here were chosen by the same people who signed this treacherous deal with Israel. They will come here to imprison Muslims," said Ismail an-Najar, a supporter of the radical Islamic Resistance Movement. Hamas. His son died in a suicide attack on an Israeli police station last week in Gaza.

As the attack showed, threats by Islamic militants to stop the peace agreement by force are not just hollow words. Since the peace accord Hamas and Islamic Jihad, its sister organisation, have launched six operations against Israeli targets, three of them suicide attacks in the Gaza Strip.

The Islamic groups, which were encouraged by Israel to weaken the PLO, were outmanoeuvred by the speed of the peace deal and may have seen a decline in their estimated one third support among the 750,000 Gazans. But the fundamentalists expect to recoup some of their support, particularly as their leader, exiled last year, begin to return and are hailed as heroes.

"My son's martyrdom was only the beginning because this is a long-term battle to restore Palestine into an Islamic land," Mr an-Najar said.



A Croat mourns her mother in Prozor, central Bosnia, as 29 civilians killed by Muslims in Uzdol last week were buried

Muslim soldier admits taking part in Christmas massacre of Serbs

FROM GEORGE EYKYN IN FOCA

BOSNIA'S Serbs have appealed to the Geneva-based United Nations War Crimes Commission to investigate what they say was one of the worst atrocities committed by Muslims against Serb civilians. They claim that 57 people were massacred in ten villages in a valley near Foca in eastern Bosnia in a surprise attack last Christmas and say all but two of the victims were civilians. In Bosnia such accusations are rarely confirmed by the alleged perpetrators, but a captured Muslim soldier has substantiated much of the story to the BBC.

The attack, previously unreported outside former Yugoslavia, was in the Jovanica valley on the morning of December 19 last year. Local Serbs, who have compiled a dossier of

photographic evidence for the UN, say as many as 600 Muslim soldiers surrounded each of the ten hamlets during the night.

According to survivors, a signal flare was fired at 7am starting what the Serbs claim was a two-hour orgy of shooting, burning and killing. When it was over, they say, only 13 of the 70 valley residents were left alive.

In Foca prison, the BBC interviewed Saban Kurtovic, a Muslim soldier who admitted taking part in the attack. A former security guard from Foca, he insisted he had not been forced to speak and that he had not been offered a deal by the Serbs. He served with the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Drina Brigade based at Mravice, a village near Gorazde. He was captured last June.

He said he and his colleagues had been told Jovanica was to be a straightforward reprisal for alleged Serbian atrocities against Muslims in Visegrad. He said up to 350 men were involved, adding: "We knew we were going against civilians. Nobody tried to make out that we were going to fight the Bosnian Serb Army or to take some important piece of territory."

He said the Muslim soldiers had been given a lot of alcohol on their way to Jovanica, where they split into ten groups, each group assigned to a target village. During the attack, he said, there was no shooting from the Serbs, and no Muslim casualties.

George Eykyn is a reporter for the BBC's Breakfast News

NEWS IN BRIEF

Owen says Nato force may have to fight

London: Nato may have to fight if it sends 50,000 troops to Bosnia for two years as part of the peace package now being debated, the negotiators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg told alliance leaders in Brussels yesterday (Eve-Anne Prentice writes).

The meeting occurred as a former British sergeant, Graham John Noble, 27, from Brighton, was freed by a court in the Serb-held Krajina area of Croatia after being arrested in June and charged with spying for Croat forces. The charge was later reduced to "injuring state security".

Croatia meanwhile said it would ask United Nations peacekeepers to withdraw next week unless the UN acknowledged its demand to disarm Serb forces occupying one third of the republic.

Exiles return

Havana: Tears and applause greeted more than 100 Cuban exiles who returned home from the United States on the first flight in a programme allowing more exiles to visit relatives. (Reuters)

Andreotti 'lied'

Rome: Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian prime minister, was reported as admitting to magistrates that he lied to investigators about his alleged Mafia connections.

Fish poisoned

Abu Dhabi: Officials have told residents not to eat fish from Gulf waters after many were found to contain dangerous chemicals. They did not say where the substances may have come from. (Reuters)

Grave digging

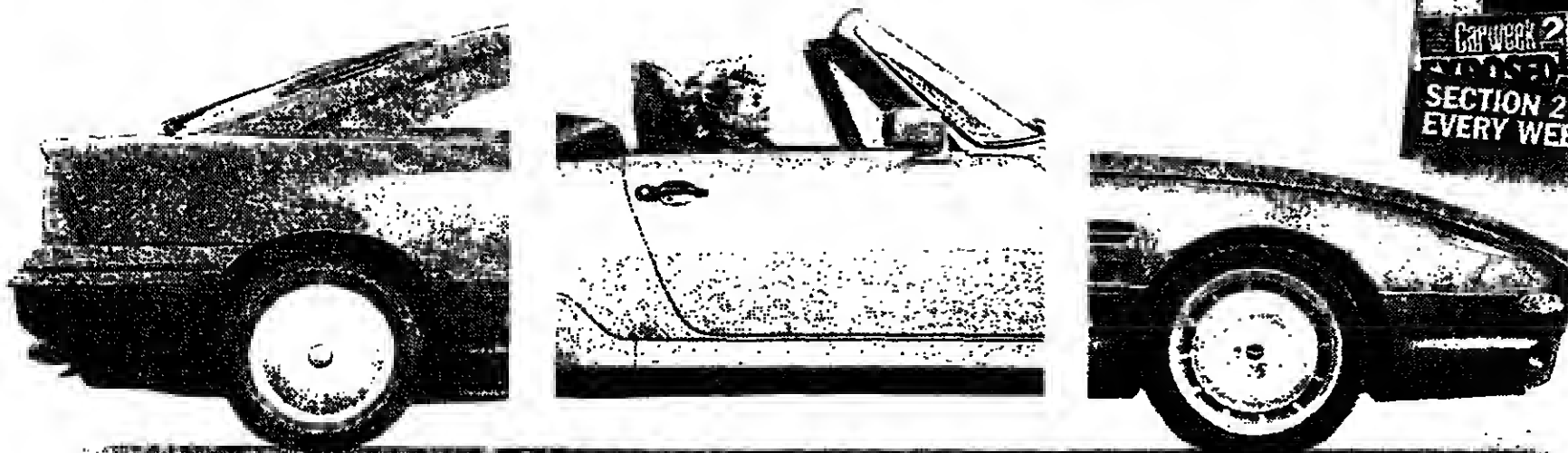
Peking: China is to start excavating the final vault at the tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang, near Xian, unearthing the last remnants of the 2,000-year-old terracotta army. The work is likely to take several years. (Reuters)

Clinton's health as US cou

Police caught middle as 50 in township

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Clintons launch their health care plan as US counts the cost

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton formally launched one of the great debates on American social policy last night with a nationally televised address to Congress promoting his plan to provide every American with lifelong health security while curbing the country's exploding health care costs.

A poll by *The New York Times* indicated that 90 per cent of Americans agreed that the present system needed drastic surgery, with 83 per cent support for Mr Clinton's aim of universal coverage; but respondents were evenly split on whether his plan would work.

From today the president, his wife Hillary and his entire cabinet will spread out across the country in a month-long drive to convince the public that they can provide universal health care as good as that which most insured Americans enjoy now without big new tax increases.

Opponents see the plan as a

■ The president and his wife have taken on a huge task: they must convince 16 committees, 24 sub-committees and finally Congress of the merits of their health reforms

giant social experiment based on flawed economic assumptions and untested theories that could wreck what is good about the present free-market system and impose a crippling new burden on the economy. Critics contend that Mr Clinton cannot provide universal coverage without big tax rises or benefit reductions, that mandatory employer contributions will cripple small businesses, and that the plan is far too dependent on government intervention.

Mr Clinton counters that he can finance his plan largely by eliminating the waste and inefficiency of the present system, that cutting corporate health costs will create jobs, and that the biggest threat to the economy is to allow health spending to continue to rise. It

already amounts to \$900 billion (£588 billion) a year. The president and his wife emphasised that the plan was a blueprint open to negotiation. Mrs Clinton hinted that she might be prepared to extend the deadline for achieving universal coverage to spread the costs.

Mrs Clinton, as the plan's chief salesman, has dazzled congressmen with her command of detail and ability to explain complex concepts simply. It will be weeks before the Health Security Act is sent to Congress and in the meantime it will run the gauntlet of no fewer than 16 committees and 24 sub-committees, all anxious to leave their imprint. It will be well into next year before Mr Clinton learns the fate of the issue.



John Demjanjuk, right, acquitted of being the Nazi concentration camp guard "Ivan the Terrible", taking breakfast on the aircraft that flew him back to the United States yesterday. His companion is James Traficant, the Democrat congressman who flew to Israel with members of Mr Demjanjuk's family to escort him home. At New York's John F. Kennedy airport in

the early hours, Mr Demjanjuk, 73, wearing a panama hat and a bullet-proof vest and flanked by private bodyguards, was spat at and jeered by angry demonstrators (Ben Macintyre writes). At least two protesting members of Jewish organisations were arrested. Out of sight of Mr Demjanjuk, his body was burnt in effigy at the airport by another group. He was believed to have flown on to Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived before being extradited to Israel in 1986. "It is time for him to fade back into normal life," Ed Nishnic, Mr Demjanjuk's son-in-law, said. To judge by the reactions of his fellow passengers, Mr Demjanjuk's hopes of re-creating the quiet suburban life of a retired car worker in Cleveland are virtually nil.

Mr Anderson, the Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press before he was kidnapped by Islamic militants in March 1985, has launched New York Renaissance, a grass-roots organisation aimed at reforming New York's state government and eventually propelling Mr Anderson to power.

Beirut hostage turns to politics

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

TERRY Anderson, after seven years as a hostage in Beirut, followed by 21 months writing his memoirs, has followed the example of many other American celebrities, and turned to politics.

Mr Anderson, the Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press before he was kidnapped by Islamic militants in March 1985, has launched New York Renaissance, a grass-roots organisation aimed at reforming New York's state government and eventually propelling Mr Anderson to power.

The group, which Mr Anderson refers to as his "Jihad Americana", owes much to the example set by Ross Perot, the third contestant in the presidential race last year. Like Mr Perot, the former hostage is not above parlaying his name and fame into raw political clout, and says he will run for office when the time is right. "I can look at myself and say 'You're certainly going to run for something, some day,'" he told *The New York Times*.

Police caught in middle as 50 die in township war

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A CIVIL war of growing intensity, with the security forces as a third party, flared up this week in the black townships of the East Rand, where the death toll since Monday is more than 50.

Yesterday senior figures from the parties whose followers are blamed for the strife, visited the area to try to calm tempers. At the same time police cordoned off Phola Park, the squatter camp on the outskirts of Thokoza, and searched it.

Police said they were looking for perpetrators of the worst incident, the occupants of a minibus who fired at pedestrians, vehicles, taxi queues and shoppers along a three-mile stretch of road near Thokoza, killing 18 people and wounding many more.

The shooting followed another incident when a gang of men lay in wait for a minibus taxi, and opened fire at it, hitting the driver. The bus turned over and the

gunmen walked over and opened fire again. Six people were killed and nine hurt.

A further nine killings have been reported in the two townships.

On the West Rand, gold miners refused to go to work at Durban Deep mine at Roodepoort after six workers were killed and 41 injured during a fight between Zulu employees and other miners at the mine hostel.

The killings have taken place despite a greatly increased police and military presence in the townships. In fact the police presence has often served to infuriate rather than calm tempers, and the police are regularly fired on. Yesterday, they came under fire from one of the hostels in Thokoza, which house Zulu migrant workers and were stormed as they tried to stop a crowd attacking the hostels.

At a meeting in Thokoza stadium, Joe Modise, the commander of the ANC military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, said that while policemen must be withdrawn from the townships because they were conniving with Inkatha.

Parliamentary progress of the bill which will establish a transitional executive council to supervise various key ministries in the run up to next year's general election was held up briefly when Roelf Meyer, the constitutional affairs minister, was called a "despicable traitor" by Jan Hoon, an MP of the right-wing Conservatives. Mr Hoon refused to withdraw and the session suspended. Yesterday Mr Hoon was suspended and the debate concluded. A vote is expected today.



Meyer described as a "despicable traitor"

Afrikaner radio defies Pretoria

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN

IN THE dusty veld 20 miles from Pretoria, South Africa's capital city, a group of Afrikaners is defying the government by operating a pirate radio station dedicated to their culture, language and history.

The operators of "Radio Pretoria" play Boer folk music between snippets of Afrikaner history and news bulletins and claim they are redressing the balance now that the official South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has "fallen under the control of the African National Congress". They are relying on a handful of suburban vigilantes, the "Pretoria Boer Commando Group", to fend off any attempt to take them off the air by force.

"We shall not shoot first," said a bearded commando, a semi-automatic pistol on his hip, at the barbed-wire fence around the site. "But we shall certainly return fire and prevent them from shutting us down."

The station is appropriately on the site of one of the later battles of the Boer war. At the end of an earth track is a 40ft tower painted

red white and blue and flying the old Transvaal republic's flag. Beside the tower is a prefabricated building where Aneta Armand, 56, a broadcaster for almost 30 years, introduces the records and reads the news.

Radio Pretoria must be one of the few radio stations anywhere still regularly playing old vinyl discs. Admirers keep bringing in records, and well-wishers come with gifts of money. Supporters give their labour freely.

The driving force behind the station is the Rev Mossie van den Burgh, 66, a retired Dutch Reformed Church pastor. He is chairman of the Afrikaner Kulturbond (Cultural Society) and declares: "We are opposed to this multicultural craze."

The station was in fact granted a licence as part of the liberalisation of the airwaves — but to broadcast for just one day, last Saturday. It is still on the air because Mr van den Burgh said, "Nobody erects a radio station just to broadcast for one day."

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Rutskoi's general could hold key to loyalty of troops

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND ANATOL LIEVEN

IN THE struggle for the army's allegiance now in progress between the two rival Russian presidents, Colonel-General Vladimir Achalov, a hardline former airborne commander, could become the key figure.

General Achalov has been appointed defence minister by Aleksandr Rutskoi. He comes from Tatar stock and has a reputation as a hot-headed commander who enjoys making quick decisions and expects instant response. Before the August 1991 coup attempt he was the Soviet deputy defence minister. He was viewed as a supporter of the coup conspirators and was forced to retire.

Yesterday there were claims that he was beginning to persuade some army units to obey his orders. There was, however, no evidence to support this.

General Pavel Grachev, President Yeltsin's defence minister, said some military units had received "orders" from General Achalov to report to the parliament building with side-arms. It was not clear if they had responded.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, who is visiting

THE ARMY

Moscow, yesterday urged the armed forces to respect Mr Yeltsin's authority. He said Britain fully supported the president and recognised his democratic credentials.

In an interview with the BBC, Mr Rifkind said the armed forces wanted to stay out of politics, and that was the mood of officers to whom he had spoken. "I am reasonably confident that the army does not want to be involved and would see their involvement as something which should be avoided at all costs," he said. This view has been echoed by most Western diplomats in Moscow.

In a speech to the Academy of the General Staff yesterday, Mr Rifkind argued that Mr Yeltsin's policies had been thwarted by "politicians with less democratic credentials than himself", and that his character as a democrat had been proved by his decision to call elections.

According to Western military experts, General Achalov is not popular in the army, but he was a strong commander and units stationed away from

Moscow might be prepared to support him if they had to make a choice.

General Achalov trained as a paratrooper, breaking his left leg on his first jump and his right on the second. He commanded the 76th Airborne Division in 1979. In the late 1980s he was head of airborne troops. He also served as chief of staff in Leningrad.

Mr Yeltsin and General Grachev yesterday vowed not to use force. But a serious clash between law-and-order forces and Mr Yeltsin's opponents inside the parliament building could be the catalyst to split the army, which is terrified of being drawn into the power struggle: as troops demonstrated in the 1991 coup, they have no wish to shed their countrymen's blood.

Any order to use force, therefore, could lead many army units into the hands of Mr Rutskoi and General Achalov: the general's promotion is, however, more likely to be short-lived.

The command system for launching Russia's nuclear weapons remain under Mr Yeltsin's control.

Backing for Yeltsin, page 1

Cromwellian leader tells MPs to go

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin waxed Cromwellian yesterday as he denounced the Russian parliament, which he had decreed abolished but which continues obstinately to go on meeting. Speaking on a walkabout in Moscow, he said roundly that "the parliament does not exist, so there is not, cannot and must not be any dialogue. But there will be no blood. I tell you. I think we have had enough of parliament making fools of us and the people. Enough!"

Few people would describe Mr Yeltsin, a former communist boss with a reputation for heavy drinking, as a Cromwellian character, but his words recalled the famous ones of Cromwell when he dissolved the Rump Parliament in 1654. "It is not fit that you sit here any longer. Begone, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!" Like Cromwell,

PUBLIC MOOD

Mr Yeltsin as he spoke was flanked by military lieutenants, in the president's case by his defence and interior ministers. But there the resemblance ends. Cromwell, victor of the English civil war and in full control of the most modern army in Europe, was perfectly capable of closing the parliament by force. The MPs knew that and dispersed meekly.

Mr Yeltsin's position is very different. The defence minister may have backed him, but the president has had to guarantee that force will not be used against parliament. If true, that reduces the Russian political struggle once again to a prolonged game of chicken — not a game that Oliver Cromwell had to indulge in very often.

Perhaps for that reason the mood inside and outside parliament yesterday was not nearly as deadly serious as it was in the heady days of the August 1991 coup. The "barri- cades" erected by the parliament's defenders are themselves a sign of this. They are pathetic affairs, small heaps of stones, pipes and bits of



Communist supporters tying a red Soviet flag on the statue of a soldier standing near parliament in Moscow

railing. Most look as if they could hardly stop a pram, let alone a tank.

The crowd outside parliament numbered about 7,000 people — a tiny number in proportion to the size of Moscow. The general impression across Russia yesterday was of small islands of intense political activity in a vast sea of public apathy.

Most of the crowd yesterday was still made up of

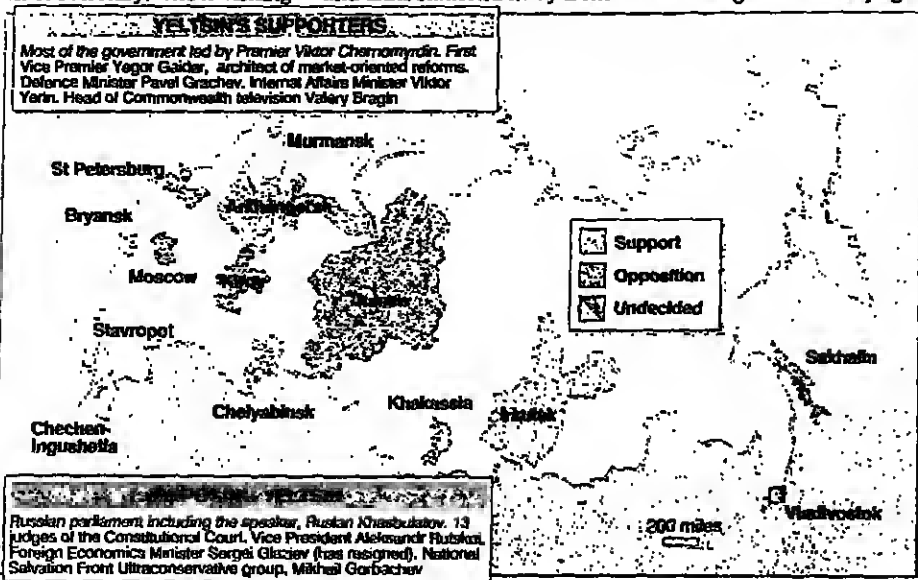
elderly and often rather sad people. Their most bitter complaints were reserved for their economic condition. Scattered through the crowd however were knots of dangerous-looking youths in leather jackets and paramilitary gear, mostly gathered under flags of extreme nationalist groups.

Inside the parliament there was no siege atmosphere. After their risky move to

depose Mr Yeltsin on Tuesday, some of the deputies appeared to have become more moderate overnight. Colonel Viktor Alksnis, one of the most radical of them, even said that he expects a compromise to be forced on both president and parliament by pressure from the Russian regions. He said the compromise might consist of a mutual drawing back and an agreement to simulta-

neous presidential and parliamentary elections.

In view of this mood and Mr Yeltsin's promise not to use force, tension here has decreased appreciably since Tuesday night. On the other hand, Colonel Alksnis said: "There is always a danger that someone will create a provocation by shedding blood. And once the first blood has been shed, nobody can say what will happen."



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Divided world waits for gamble to pay off in Moscow



Rutskoi: thrived in a constitutional fog

IN RUSSIA history may repeat itself first as farce then as tragedy, to stand Marx's dictum on its head. The vodka-soaked August coup of 1991 petered out as a Keystone cops affair: the fate of Boris Yeltsin's constitutional coup and Aleksandr Rutskoi's counter-coup could be more bloody. Whether applauding or booing, the West will merely sit on its hands and yet there are great interests at stake.

The Western trumpet, this time round, sounds a little less uncertain. In 1991, President Mitterrand's early defeatist appearance on French television gave comfort to the undemocratic enemy, only partly offset by John Major's prompt opposition to the coup. There were, fortunately, no such embarrassments on Tuesday, although President Clinton's giggling performance at the White House press conference left something to be desired.

No doubt Western chancelleries were better prepared this time for a showdown between a democratically elected president and an undemocratic parliament.

WESTERN SECURITY

The battle for power in Russia has left the West with a dilemma. Martin Ivens asks how it will make a collective voice heard

Western leaders might even argue *sotto voce* that Mr Yeltsin should have dispensed with this undemocratic parliament two years ago to allow for the development of real democratic party politics. The hardline ex-communists have thrived in Russia's constitutional fog, able to sabotage reform and attack President Yeltsin's legitimacy.

The West will probably do little until it is clear Mr Yeltsin's gamble has paid off. Like Mr Yeltsin himself, Western leaders now hope that the steps already taken to liberalise the economy and dismantle the communist apparatus have gone too far to be reversed. They pray the armed forces have already been squarred by Mr Yeltsin. They will have nothing to do with the hardliners. The West has already done well

out of the unravelling of Soviet power. Germany has secured its unity and "Mitteleuropa" is again united with Western civilisation. The European Community has done little enough to promote the stability of Poland, Hungary and the Czech lands by its protectionist trade policies, but the strategic gains are already evident. The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact has been an incalculable bonus, although not all Soviet troops have yet gone home. Even their failure to act in former Yugoslavia has been a conscious choice.

Outside Europe, the gains have also been dramatic. American influence in the Middle East is paramount because of the absence of a superpower competitor. The Israeli-Arab dialogue which holds out the promise of peace between Jew and Arab

would have once foundered on Soviet ill-will.

Certainly, the West will be concerned by the character of the regime that controls the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union. Naturally, we are all in favour of a democratic outcome and a freer market system. Obviously, we want to keep our gains in Europe and elsewhere. But are there other interests at stake? The West cannot make up its mind. In the rarefied circles which debate grand strategy an argument has been raging about the fate of the non-Russian Soviet Union, the territory known in Moscow as "Near Abroad".

The pessimists say the West has already surrendered the territory of the former Soviet Union to Russia, whether led by Mr Yeltsin or Mr Rutskoi. The pessimists point to Russian army provocations in Moldova, to the blatant backing of Abkhazian rebels by Russia against Georgia, to Russian army looting and threats in the Baltic republics, Belorussia no longer cares about its own existence. Independ-

ent Ukraine has been brought to heel, forced to concede its rights over the Black Sea fleet and its nuclear missiles to get oil from Russia. Central Asia is in hock to Moscow, financially and strategically. Russian minorities provide more than 20 million reasons for military intervention.

Meanwhile, the pessimists point to a deal made by Western bankers which allowed Russia to control assets held jointly by all the former Soviet republics in return for paying all their joint debts. These debts will, of course, not be paid — the assets will retain their value. When Georgia complained about its treatment at Russian hands, the West told it to get lost. The West is seduced by the notion that Moscow is picking up the White Man's Burden.

The optimists say a doomsday scenario of a reunited, evil empire is stuff and nonsense. Russia remains the key power in an area where anarchy would otherwise prevail. The Soviet periphery is often even less democratic than Moscow.

If Ukraine under a Brezhnevite

president is a bankrupt nation it is because the government has refused to take even the most tentative steps towards reform. Hard cheese if Moscow chooses to play hard ball.

Finally, the optimists argue. Mr Yeltsin wants to build up the Confederation of Independent States as a peacekeeping organisation responsible to a wider peacekeeping organisation like the UN or the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In which forum should the West make its choice? A schizophrenic UN? A toothless CSCE? A moribund Nato? An inward looking EC? The G7 — a body lacking military muscle? A security pact between Germany, France and Britain — or even a sort of super Western European Union? These nations and organisations cannot even agree over Yugoslavia. In the meantime the fate of Russia lies in the balance.

How will the West make its collective voice heard in the East?

Fight for Russia's soul, page 18

Yeltsin gets West's support despite Clinton hesitation

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON, NICHOLAS WOOD IN KUALA LUMPUR AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NO COUNTRY reveres its constitution like America, which helps to explain Washington's slow and fumbling reaction to Boris Yeltsin's extra-constitutional dissolution of Russia's parliament.

Mr Yeltsin required immediate support from the West, and particularly from Washington, to bolster his position. There was no doubt within the administration that American interests would best be served by Mr Yeltsin's survival: his successors would almost certainly be hardliners hostile to both democratic reform and America. Yet in contrast to John Major, it took President Clinton more than six hours on Tuesday publicly to throw his weight behind the Russian leader, by which time it was well past midnight in Moscow.

Indeed Mr Clinton's initial comments, about two hours after Mr Yeltsin's speech, might easily have been misinterpreted by Mr Yeltsin's opponents as a sign of indifference to his fate. The president was briefing about 200 radio chat show hosts on his health care reforms, a subject that has preoccupied him for the past few days, and referred to the dramatic events in Moscow almost as a light-hearted aside.

"Since you've been sitting here, Boris Yeltsin has dis-

solved the Russian parliament and called elections for that parliament and his major opponent has apparently declared himself president," Mr Clinton said with a laugh. He offered no judgment on Mr Yeltsin's action, observing merely that "they are going through these things, trying to come to grips with what it means to be a democracy and what it means to change things."

The administration was caught flat-footed by Mr Yeltsin's announcement, though Andrei Kozyrev, Russia's foreign minister, had intimated to Warren Christo-

pher, the Secretary of State, during last week's Middle East peace ceremony that some dramatic action to resolve Moscow's political stalemate was approaching.

Washington's dilemma was that although it saw Mr Yeltsin as Russia's best hope for political and economic reform, and although it considered the Russian constitution to be a scarcely valid legacy of communism, it knew supporting democratic procedures in Russia was more important than backing a single man.

Mr Clinton obtained the fig leaf he needed in a 17-minute telephone conversation with Mr Yeltsin on Tuesday night. Mr Clinton won firm assurances that Mr Yeltsin would hold free and fair elections this December. Mr Clinton then publicly declared his backing for the Russian leader, focusing on Mr Yeltsin's end, not his means. In a carefully worded statement, Mr Clinton said: "I believe that the path to elections for a new legislature is ultimately consistent with the democratic and reform course that he has charted."

America's unease was apparent on Capitol Hill yesterday. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate armed services committee, said he supported Mr Yeltsin but felt uncomfortable when any president



Boris Yeltsin among supporters in Pushkin Square, Moscow, where he stopped yesterday on his way from his country house to the Kremlin

disbands a sitting parliament and disregards an existing constitution". Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, was equally cautious, saying: "We have to watch the situation closely; keep the US on the side of democracy and hope that the December elections will result in a mandate for Yeltsin."

In Kuala Lumpur, Mr Major extended strong support to Mr Yeltsin. The prime minister, who sent a message to Mr Yeltsin, said that Britain was on the side of the reform process but wanted President Yeltsin to avoid the use of force if possible and to operate under the rule of law. "We would want it to proceed peacefully. Let there be no doubt whatsoever that the reform process is most likely to go ahead under President Yeltsin."

By last night Western politi-

cal, security and economic institutions joined in a unanimous chorus of support for Mr Yeltsin. Manfred Wörner, Nato's secretary-general, said: "The most important thing is to support the democratic forces to enable the reforms to continue and to prevent the country from falling into chaos." The European Community called the crisis "the inevitable consequences of an impasse created by conserva-

tive forces hostile to democratic reform". Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said: "President Yeltsin has turned once again directly to the people of his country to overcome its crisis through a democratic decision. He deserves our full support."

Morihiro Hosokawa, Japan's prime minister, said: "We have supported Russia's domestic reforms all the way and will continue to watch devel-

opments." China declined to express a preference between Mr Yeltsin and Mr Rutskoi. "As a neighbouring country, we hope that Russia will maintain stability," Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Nobel prize-winning author of *The Gulag Archipelago* and former dissident, also backed Mr Yeltsin but criticised those who surrounded him.

Peter Brookes, page 18

Purse strings at the heart of tug-of-war

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE tug-of-war between Boris Yeltsin and the Russian parliament has been caused mainly by their fight for the custody of a sickly infant: the Russian economy.

Mr Yeltsin wants to force the pace of reforms that he believes will eventually give the economy a long and healthy life. Parliament thinks the shock to the country is too great and wants to move at a far gentler pace.

If Mr Yeltsin succeeds, he must inflict more hardships on the Russian people to force the International Monetary Fund to keep its pledge of at least \$1.5 billion in extra aid this year. These hardships must be imposed at the very time Mr Yeltsin needs to win voters for the election he has called in December.

If the parliamentary hardliners win, they would almost certainly alienate Russia's main Western backers and so

lose the billions pledged in aid. In July, the G7 summit of industrialised countries agreed a \$3 billion (£1.98 billion) fund to help Russian privatisation over 18 months. This is in addition to \$43 billion already promised in aid, loans and debt rescheduling.

The focus of the clash has recently concentrated on the budget deficit. The government wants the deficit to be 12 trillion roubles (\$12 billion) this year, while parliament has set a target of more than twice that. The IMF says the deficit must fall to within 10 per cent of GDP by the end of the year before it will hand over the promised \$1.5 billion.

Parliament was to have discussed tomorrow a request by Mr Yeltsin's government to borrow a relatively modest

4,700 billion roubles from the central bank to finance the deficit. Parliament wanted to force the government to borrow 15,000 billion roubles, so fuelling an inflation rate running at more than 20 per cent a month.

In naming Yegor Gaidar, the architect of reform, as acting economy minister yesterday, Mr Yeltsin is clearly snubbing parliament's desire to slow the rate of change.

The danger of political unrest spilling over into violence is greater if the parliament faction wins the struggle, since it would probably be unable to cope financially without foreign economic aid.

"The real risk is that parliament would not be able to move on the economy and would look to military and foreign policy issues to use a smokescreen," Howard White, lecturer in Russian government at the London



Gaidar: the architect of economic reform

School of Economics, said. "The parliamentarians would find it very difficult with an outrageous budget deficit which the IMF could not possibly sanction."

Parliament has ordered the central bank to stop financing government and presidential

organisations, while Mr Yeltsin has ordered it to obey presidential decrees and government orders until after the elections. The bank yesterday indicated support for Mr Yeltsin. In return, Viktor Geraschenko, its head, whose relations with Mr Yeltsin have been cool, won support from the government to attend this month's IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Washington.

Some observers believe the present stalemate will last until December, with some form of compromise enabling the country to function at basic levels until then. In this case, the pace of economic reform will have to be slowed to some extent.

□ Bonn: Germany and Russia will today sign a bilateral deal to reschedule eight billion marks (£3.22 billion) worth of Russian debt, an official said. (Reuters)

Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

Airport reopens after downing of jet

FROM LIAM McDOWALL IN TBILISI

GEORGIA

THE airport at the besieged city of Sukhumi reopened yesterday under continued shelling, a day after Abkhazian rebels shot down a passenger plane, killing 28 Russian and Georgian civilians.

Fierce fighting was reported as Georgian troops tried to keep the Abkhazian forces out of Sukhumi, the regional capital and last government stronghold in the area. In an offensive that began a week ago, the rebels have reached the city's outskirts.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, has vowed not to let the city fall, staying in Sukhumi despite the gunfire and visiting the front to boost troop morale. His forces claimed some progress yesterday in their push north

from the capital of Tbilisi along the highway linking Sukhumi with the rest of Georgia. The Abkhazians also reported gains, according to Tass news agency. Details of the fighting were sketchy, however, because telephones to Sukhumi were cut.

Georgian forces were also fighting to reopen a road and rail link with the town of Ochamchira 40 miles to the southeast. The defence ministry said they had made some headway, but they still appeared far from their objective of regaining control of the entire highway.

More than 1,500 people have been wounded and an unknown number killed in fighting in and around Sukhumi, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said yesterday. The

ICRC appealed to both parties to respect civilian rights and allow humanitarian aid to reach victims without discrimination. Three hospitals in Sukhumi had to be evacuated on Tuesday because of the intense fighting, it added.

Georgian officials said the TU-134 aircraft had been hit by a heat-seeking missile from an Abkhazian gunboat in the Black Sea. There were few other details about the plane, which had been trying to land on a flight from Sochi, in southern Russia.

Mr Shevardnadze has appealed to Russia and the West for help. Vakhtang Goguaдзе, the Georgian Speaker, issued a statement yesterday supporting Boris Yeltsin in his power struggle.

Russia has said it is neutral in the Abkhazian conflict and has condemned the rebel offensive, but many Georgians believe Russia has aided the rebels. (AP)

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D-Day 1944 was the beginning of the end of the second world war. Russell Miller on eyewitnesses to an invasion

'Look, the sea is black with boats'

The hopes and fears of the German soldiers and French civilians on the receiving end of the Allied bombardment and landings

The French people woke up on the morning of June 6, 1944 to greet the day for which they had been waiting so long, the day they were to be delivered from German occupation, D-Day. For the Germans, it was the day they had dreaded for so long...

Obergefreite Werner Kortenhaus, aged 19, 4th Company, 2nd Panzer Regiment. WE OFTEN discussed the Allied landing. We thought, let them get here, we'll throw them out again. But then we also thought there were several thousand German aircraft ready to come and give us air support.

Feldmarschall Gerd von Rundstedt, commander-in-chief West. THE STRENGTH of the defences was absurdly overrated. The "Atlantic Wall" was an illusion, conjured up by propaganda — to deceive the German people as well as the Allies. It used to make me angry to read the stories about its impenetrable defences. Hitler himself never came to visit it and see what it really was.

German War Diary, 7th Army High Command, 02.15. Chief of Staff informs B: Landings, mainly airborne and mostly in the vicinity of the 716th Inf Div. Small parts already annihilated. Admiral of the channel coast reports ships spotted in the sea around Cherbourg. Chief of Staff is of the opinion that it is a major action. 02.40. G-3 of Army Group B



Soldiers moving up on June 7, D-Day plus 1. They were received with welcome and disbelief by the French: 'They're here! They've landed, and if you don't believe me, here's an American cigarette'

reports: According to Commanding General of Group West, it is not a major action...

Raymond Paris, aged 20, assistant to the notary, Ste-Mère-Eglise. SOME of the parachutists landed as close as four or five metres from where I stood. All the Germans who were there began to fire at the boys who were coming down. There was a parachutist who fell directly into the lime trees just by the pump and some of us helped him down and out of his harness.

At that moment I found myself in the street, ten or 15 metres from the pump, when a nearby German soldier suddenly lifted his machine gun to fire on a parachutist. I tapped him on the shoulder, saying, "Don't shoot, civilian," to dis-

tract him. The parachutist was very lucky as the German soldier did not fire. Almost immediately afterwards, another parachutist became tangled up in the trees and the Germans shot him.

Unteroffizier Rudi Escher, aged 23, 1058 Infantry Regiment, 91st Airlanding Division. WHEN we got back to the village, it was obvious the invasion had begun. More planes were coming over and parachutists were dropping everywhere — one was hanging from the church spire, even though there were two guards still up there. There was nothing they could do about him because their weapons were in their sleeping quarters below. There was by now quite a bit

of shooting and while we were standing by the church wondering what to do, one of our men fell down dead, shot through the heart. After this, we decided to return to our unit. There were only about six of us and there was very little we could do. Leaving our dead comrade behind, we retrieved our bicycles, which were stored in a barn, and cycled back to our unit, one behind the other, each of us frightened of being shot.

Obergefreite Heinrich Severloh, aged 20, 1st Battery, 352 Infantry Division. WHEN the fog finally disappeared in the early morning, there was what looked like a city out there, ship upon ship upon ship. You could not see the water between them. As I was running from the

position I was wounded, one shot in the hip, the second in the face. The bullet on the hip bone had entered through the pocket where I kept my papers and paybook into battle, but I hadn't. I don't think I would have survived.

Major Werner Pliska, aged 32, 352 Artillery Regiment, 352nd Division. TO MY horror and amazement, I could clearly see the guns of the fleet being elevated as they swung slowly round to point in our direction. The shells screamed like a thousand express trains and all seemed to be converging on our position. One of the first shells hit the base of our bunker and literally shook it. I was thrown to the ground and my binoculars were smashed. There was dust, powder, dirt and splinters of concrete all over the place. The telephone kept ringing.

I picked up the phone and someone said, "Please give me an exact location of where the bombs are falling." I shouted back, "For God's sake, they're falling all over. What do you expect me to do, go out and measure the holes with a ruler?"

For the French people in Normandy, the day of liberation was also a day of terror, as the massive naval bombardment battered the coast.

then swarms of Allied bombers launched mass attacks on the major towns in the path of the planned Allied advance...

Madame d'Anselme Asnelles. WE HAD dug a little trench in the garden, just big enough to shelter the eight of us and a



Severloh: wounded

couple of others. It was not very well protected. When the bombing attacks started we were in the house, but it was so bad that we had to go into the garden and take refuge in the trench, which was fortunate because parts of the house were soon smashed. One of the children climbed the garden wall to see what was happening. There was a German gun just the other side. Suddenly he shouted excitedly, "Mummy! Mummy! Look, the sea — it's black with boats!"

Jean Deslandes, aged 14, son of the baker, at Lion-sur-Mer.

THROUGH the morning and midday hours we crouched in the dugout, which was little more than a tube sealed at either end with a piece of cloth. From time to time, the two ex-servicemen who guarded the two ends of the ditch would stick their heads up and report on the damage. "Madame Deslandes, your building has taken a hit."

Much later, when we were all tightly pressed together, waiting for death, a complete silence fell. The two veterans understood its meaning: the infantry was about to arrive. We climbed out of the ditch just as the first commandos arrived, wearing not helmets but green berets, their faces blacked up. Seeing us, they stopped. With enthusiastic gestures, we warned them that the Germans were not far away. "They're waiting for you down there," we told them and we showed them the château about 40 metres away.

Pierre Cardron, aged 40, baker, Ste-Marie-du-Mont. I HEARD planes, opened the window and saw paratroopers coming down. I ran upstairs to wake my wife.

At around 5.30, I went upstairs to see my son, who was in bed because he had had his tonsils taken out the day before. I looked out of the first

floor window, still wearing my white baker's hat, and saw an American parachutist pointing a gun at me.

At seven o'clock, M Le Caplin walked in. He was a guard at the railway station at Carentan and had just come on night duty. He kissed me and said, "They're here! They're here! They've landed, and if you don't believe me, here's an American cigarette."

Those of us who had relatives in town went to look for them. Mostly they found each other but Antoinette arrived at the house and threw herself into my arms. "I've lost my mother," she cried. A little while later a covered handcart arrived with the body of poor Madame Legrain. There were no more coffins to be had, so M Legrain made a coffin from wood he found around. The coffin was carried to the bottom of the garden and put into a ditch dug that very morning at the request of Madame Legrain.

Extracted from 'Nothing Less Than Victory' by Russell Miller. Published by Michael Joseph on October 7 at £18.95.

TOMORROW

How the greatest Allied gamble paid off

Too few of the shortlisted novels will be read, Daniel Johnson says

Same old story in the Booker

THE BOOKER has done it again. Few of the six novels chosen by Lord Gowrie and his panel have so far been popular with the public. Britain's leading literary prize, some will groan, is in the hands of a self-appointed elite, who only like foreigners. Actually, none of the chosen titles is inaccessible; but the laudable aim of promoting new names has, as usual, taken precedence over being fair to grantees such as Iris Murdoch.

As usual, it is hard to get a fix on the Booker shortlist. It is certainly multicultural: two Canadians (Carol Shields and Michael Ignatieff), one West Indian (Caryl Phillips), one Irishman (Roddy Doyle), one Australian (David Malouf) and one child of Hungarian parents (Tibor Fischer).

Surprisingly, in this year of the Indian novel, no Chaudhuri, no Chatterjee, no Gupta.

The judges' politics have left no obvious mark on the list. Gowrie is, of course, a former Tory arts minister and a confidante of Lady Thatcher before he famously left her government because it paid so badly. A hereditary peer, he seems just the kind of bogeyman that politically correct parents would use to frighten their children. But Gowrie is also a poet and devoted to the arts. His jury has done little to upset the liberal consensus.

Roddy Doyle is the only name on the list to have the kind of bestselling potential that makes publishers' mouths water, and despite his relative youth (born in Dublin in 1958) Doyle is the only one to have been shortlisted for the Booker before. Writing in *The Times* about *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, the Northern Irish writer David Park paid tribute to its "instantly recognisable" style and landscape, adding that "nobody writes as effectively about working class families as Doyle". But he entered a caveat: the new book was, Park ventured, "a hedged bet, a novel of transition in content and conception".

with grace and wisdom. Ignatieff, he said, is "a magnificent writer with an exquisite talent for naturalism". Like Ignatieff a cosmopolitan man of letters, David Malouf nonetheless returned to the Aboriginal roots of his homeland in *Remembering Babylon*. Christina Koning compared it with the late Patrick White, though she found the narrative too "slender" to support its weighty symbolism. Like others, she praised the quality of his prose.

If there is a suspicion of political bias about this list, the prosecution will cite Caryl Phillips, the only black writer on the list. *Crossing the River* is a classic Booker choice: written on a grand scale, this novel is about the price paid over many generations for the crime of slavery. James Woodall praised it for its scope and for its bold, cinematic technique.

Finally, there is Carol Shields: a Chicago-born writer, now in her 30s, who has lived in Canada for the last 35 years; her stock in Britain has risen steadily in the last decade, though only four of her six novels have been published here so far. *The Stone Diaries* — the fictional biography of a very ordinary heroine — received an almost unanimous chorus of praise from the critics. Gill Hornby, in *The Times*, positively purred: "wise, witty and warm as toast". Shields is already emerging as one of the few

serious literary novelists with a universal popular appeal. Lord Gowrie has already given notice that there will be no repetition of last year's unfortunate tie. One consolation for Vikram Seth, the unlucky loser at the first fence: *A Suitable Boy* has probably sold more copies than the six novels on this shortlist put together.

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Caryl Phillips, Carol Shields, Roddy Doyle

Believe it or not, they're related.

This autumn, John Major and his cabinet colleagues will decide on the extent of Britain's overseas aid programme for 1994. Around the same time, world finance ministers will be meeting in Washington to discuss the debt crisis affecting Africa and the rest of the Third World.

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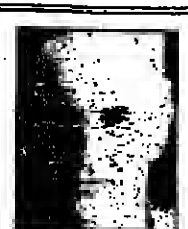
RELIEF WITHOUT RISK

Fish odour syndrome . . . no cure from Lorenzo's Oil . . . and the dire effects of peanuts

Why are they avoiding me?

FISHY-SMELLING body odours have received a certain amount of attention in the medical press recently. The *British Medical Journal* has reported on a detailed project from St Mary's Hospital, London, on the hereditary basis of the fish odour syndrome, in which the patient's urine, breath, sweat, vaginal and other bodily secretions smell of fish.

The physical causes and social consequences of this comparatively rare disease have been analysed elsewhere in the same journal by Dr Valerie Walker, a consultant in chemical pathology at Southampton Hospital. About one person in 100 carries the recessive gene which, should they have children by another carrier, may produce an affected offspring. Research shows that these children are teased and ostracised by their school mates so that they grow up isolated and withdrawn. The situation is made



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

worse because they are unable to smell their own fishy odour, the cause of which may be unrecognised, and hence neither they nor their parents take the necessary steps to reduce its impact.

The underlying biochemical problem is that these patients fail to oxidise trimethylamine, which is formed in the gut from the breakdown of the choline and trimethylamine oxide contained in food. When properly oxidised, the odourless compound is excreted in the urine.

Treatment is dietary. Sea fish has to be excluded from the diet completely and so far as is possible the intake of choline needs to be reduced. As well as leaving fish off the menu, patients should not eat eggs and need to renounce the pleasure of choline-rich devilled kidneys or calves' liver, as well as peas and soya beans. Patients with fish odour syndrome are also

advised to try to avoid sweating as assiduously as if they were a heroine in a Victorian novel. Short courses of Flagyl (metronidazole) help to suppress the gut flora, which reduces the problem.

Fish odour may be interesting to doctors, and is certainly distressing to patients, but it is rare. If there is a faint whiff of fish from somebody at a party it is far more likely that it is because either they or their sexual partners have bacterial vaginosis — a frequent cause of an irritating heavy vaginal discharge, the smell of which is very clinging. The diagnosis of the condition, previously known as non-specific vaginitis, Gardnerella, or haemophilus vaginitis, is usually suspected because of the appearance of the discharge and the inflammation it causes.

Bacterial vaginosis is common, and is frequently misdiagnosed as thrush. It is found as often if not more often in post-menopausal women as in those who are younger. It is probably not so much the result of any particular infection, but more an imbalance in the vaginal flora with a resulting excess of anaerobic bacteria.

This month Dalacin cream (clindamycin phosphate) a new product, has been licensed for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis. Previously the only effective means of control was a week's course of metronidazole tablets. Although effective, their side-effects are a disadvantage and can give rise to nausea and a metallic



Lorenzo's Oil: the parents hoped oleic and enuric acid would work

taste in the mouth. Furthermore, patients who take them are unable to touch a drop of alcohol.

Dalacin cream is marketed with an applicator. The treatment is simple, the cream inserted daily for seven days. Clindamycin when taken by mouth, however, can cause diarrhoea. No adverse effects to Dalacin cream in pregnancy have yet been noted but for the time being it is not recommended in the first three months.

Oils ineffective

MANY people had hoped that the film *Lorenzo's Oil* would do for adrenomyeloneuropathy what the film about Bob Champion did for testicular cancer, but there are differences. Cancer of the testes is common, the most common tumour affecting men under the age of 45. The treatment for cancer of the testes is also of proven effec-

ency: the modern regime of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy has turned what was usually a fatal disease a generation ago into one where there is a more than 90 per cent recovery rate, if the patient is in good medical hands. This would be even higher if patients reported any change in the size of their testis earlier.

Conversely, *Lorenzo's Oil* features a rare condition, a demyelinating disease of the central nervous system resulting in progressive paralysis and associated atrophy of the adrenal glands.

Although Lorenzo's parents may have had complete faith in the treatment they advocated, it was uncertain in medical circles that it would be useful. The film tells a story of the battle the dedicated parents of the affected boy had against the innate conservatism of doctors. The parents plead to have their cure, the addition of oleic and enuric acid to the boy's diet, accepted.

Hopes were raised that the dietary supplements might be an answer to a distressing condition, but now they have been dashed by reports of a trial in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, in two years of treatment patients given the oils showed no benefit compared with those who were not treated — and in one case there seemed to be marked deterioration. In this case it seems the conservatism of the doctors was justified.

Perilous snack

CONFRONTED by a small bowl of peanuts served with drinks at the Reform Club I suddenly remembered that somewhere I had read that scientists from the Northwick Park Hospital, London, and Liverpool University had doubts about the effect of peanuts on the colorectal mucosa, the lining of the lower gut. I allowed my colleague to finish them.

Peanuts have never received a very good medical press. In a few people they can cause a potentially fatal allergy. Cardiologists do not approve of either the salt with which they are served, or their intrinsic fat, and in many parts of the world they can be contaminated with a deadly fungus. To the known risks, remote as they may be, there is added a new scare.

Peanuts, according to the Liverpool and Northwick Park doctors, have a remarkable effect on the cellular lining of the colon and rectum. Their work, reported in *Mims* magazine, shows the rate of cell division in the rectal epithelium of the rectal mucosa is greatly increased by the ingestion of peanuts. Thirty-six people who had had a previously normal gut lining were given 100 grams of peanuts for five days. The peanuts increased cell proliferation by 22 per cent, a worrying finding for a rapid rate of cell division has been shown to be associated with an increased risk of cancer.

How six hours in a deep freeze can vanquish the British bed bug invasion

Nigel Hawkes offers some practical advice to alleviate the symptoms caused by the common house dust mite

This week, the mighty mite has sent shivers around a million breakfast tables. The British Allergy Foundation's "Fight the Mite" campaign has brought home the size of the health problems caused by the tiny creatures that share our houses and our beds.

Asthma, eczema, and rhinitis — year-round hay fever symptoms that many people do not even realise is an allergic disease — are all believed to be caused by the mites. Yet methods of dealing with the infestation are poorly developed, and treatments that could reduce the allergic

reaction are not generally available.

Modern developments in housing have made the house dust mite much more of a problem. Dr Ian Burgess, the deputy director of the Medical Entomology Centre at Cambridge University, explains that the dust mite, which lives on the scales of skin we constantly shed, needs warmth and a fairly narrow humidity range, between 70 and 85 per cent, to survive.

Modern houses, sealed against draughts, centrally heated and far more humid than they were 25 years ago, have provided the perfect con-

ditions. To survive, the mites depend on a steady supply of skin and the presence of fungal moulds which begin the process of digestion.

Food supply is no problem, since skin scales make up the bulk of household dust. The mites, mostly *Aspergillus repens*, are found everywhere but, like the mites, need a damp atmosphere to survive. Their role, Dr Burgess says, appears to be to remove fats from the skin scales, making them more appealing for the mites.

Experiments at the Building Research Station have shown that reducing humidity does reduce mite numbers. The best way is to install a form of mechanical ventilation, already widely used in Scandinavia, which draws the humid air out of the house and replaces it with less humid air from the outside.

Such systems, called mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, are obviously a high-tech answer. Simpler remedies, such as dehumidifiers, are not effective, Dr Burgess says.

The mites can be killed by chemicals, but this may have little effect unless the allergens are also removed. That can be done by washing carpets, which in turn rises increasing humidity levels and providing exactly the right conditions for the mites to re-colonise. "We're caught in a vicious circle," Dr Burgess admits.

Pillows are a major reservoir of mites and of their droppings, the source of the allergens that trigger disease. A pillow can harbour 2,000 mites, each producing about 20 faecal pellets a day. Dr John Maunier, the director of the Cambridge centre, has estimated that a six-year-old pillow can have one-tenth of its weight consisting of old human skin, mould, dead mites, live mites and mite dung. "Is it any wonder, when we put our children's heads down on that like that, that some of them have respiratory problems? Our bed hygiene is appalling. Most pillows are at least a dozen years old, and most mattresses 15 years old."

'Is it any wonder, when we put our children's heads down on that grot, that some of them have respiratory problems?'

Dr Tony Frew, a consultant physician at Royal South Hampshire Hospital in Southampton, does have one simple remedy worth trying.

He suggests that pillows — preferably of synthetic materials rather than feathers — should be washed, dried thoroughly in the airing cupboard, then stuck in the deep freeze for six hours. Washing will remove the allergen, and the cold will kill the mites. "In Scandinavia, they hang bedding out of the window, but here it's seldom cold enough. A chest deep freeze will do the trick," he says.

Both Dr Burgess and Dr Frew believe that Britain is backward in treating allergic diseases. "There is insufficient encouragement to GPs to invest time in helping people to avoid allergies," Dr Burgess says. "It's much easier to reach

for a prescription pad." The evidence is that prescriptions are not working.

Asthma, in particular, is increasing in frequency and severity, with one in ten people likely to suffer from it at some time in their lives. Severe attacks kill about 2,000 people every year. Not all of this, of course, can be blamed on the house dust mite, but 85 per cent of asthmatics are allergic to their droppings.

Very few people are actually aware of their own allergies. A survey for the British Allergy Foundation published this week shows that only one in four allergy sufferers has ever had a skin prick test to show what it is they are allergic to. The reason why so few tests are done is that unlike many countries Britain does not use desensitization therapy to treat allergies. The Committee on Safety of Medicines limited the use of the technique in 1986, after a series of adverse reactions were reported: the companies making the desensitizing injections withdrew from the market, and as they produced the allergens for the skin prick tests, these, too, largely disappeared.

Without such tests, it is impossible for patients to know if it is worthwhile, for example, to invest in mattress and pillow covers to ease allergic symptoms. Two brands are available: Intervent, sold by Boots, and Allergy Control Products, sold by Allerayde (telephone: 0636 613444).

Some doctors believe that the CSM may have overreacted in banning the therapies, which have been safely used in western Europe and the United States. "If the treatment is done properly, there is no particular danger," says Dr Frew.

Advice on simple measures against house dust mites is available from the British Allergy Foundation, Freephone: 0800 318 355.



The common house dust mite. Few GPs are able to test for the allergies it causes because allergens for skin prick tests are not available

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Janet Daley



■ Why do Britons believe in charging as much as they can, rather than as little as they can afford?

As you may have noticed, the prices of some things have come down lately. The fact that you are reading these words now may be a consequence of one such event. Without entering the debate on the price reduction of *The Times*, let me make one point. We have already demonstrated a basic maxim of the market system which is neglected by most British business. If you lower your prices, it is very likely that you will enlarge the market for your sort of product.

This lesson seems so trite that I am embarrassed to set it out in print. And yet it seems to pass over the heads — or beneath the notice — of almost everyone involved in financial decision-making. If the market for a category of thing is static or contracting, the standard British response is to raise prices so as to maintain profit levels. Scarcely anyone seems to consider the possibility that lowering prices by cutting profit margins to the bone can do more than merely redistribute a fixed amount of custom, by

The British supermarket chains have always justified their high prices on the grounds of the high building costs which are forced on them by planning regulations. But instead of using their considerable political muscle to lobby for less restriction, they opt instead for anti-competitive protectionism and actually campaign to tighten the planning regulations so that undercutting rivals are blocked. And in this, they are at one not only with most supposedly "commercial" enterprise in Britain, but with public economic philosophy as well. Instead of confronting the real problems of a hidebound, over-regulated economy, private business and government find it much easier simply to charge the customer (or the taxpayer) even more.

The high street banks have been solemnly warned by this government that they must not bankrupt struggling small businesses with swingeing charges, but the banks' determination to wriggle out of us how ever much money they need to recover from their own failings of judgment is precisely analogous to the government's own policy of raising taxes to refinance itself after its failings of judgment. In fact, the very same formula works for taxation: lower the rates and more people will pay. Not only because they do not take so much trouble to evade taxation, but because they are more likely to feel it is worthwhile to work at all and to earn more while at work.

How easy just to make the customer pay more

people will pay. Not only because they do not take so much trouble to evade taxation, but because they are more likely to feel it is worthwhile to work at all and to earn more while at work.

Thus, the bizarre premises on which public services are run into the ground are not so far from the ones that govern private business. Public transport raises its prices to compensate for falling revenue and — surprise — more people then find it economic to use their cars, so the use of trains drops further. And so the services are cut and the prices are raised some more, and even more people desert the railways. But then a decision to increase passenger numbers by a price-cutting policy would mean tackling the longer-term problems of transport: union, Spanish practices — and no one can be bothered to do grips with those.

Charging everybody too much for everything is not even a short-term solution: it impoverishes those whose spending could go much further, and it undermines the will to earn and produce more.

What a seductive rule it is: charge as much as you can get away with, rather than as little as you can afford. It's so much easier to make the customer pay more than to unravel the processes which got you into a mess.



Credit where it is due

A return to traditional banking practices would be a boost to small businesses

When I left *The Times* in 1981, I divided my business life into three parts. I took on quasi-governmental jobs as a governor of the BBC and (though this was not paid) as the chairman of the Arts Council. I became involved in non-executive work with large public companies, and I went into the small business field. In the 12 years since then, I have joined in six business start-ups, half of them in publishing. Of the six, two have been sold to larger companies. Four survive as independent businesses: three of these are reasonably successful and the fourth is modestly sized but does not make losses. Four of the six were American, and two British.

Like almost everyone else who becomes involved in small businesses, I have had losses as well as profits. Start-ups are vulnerable to recession in their early years. Although we foresaw the recession of 1990 and after, those were difficult years for most young businesses. Several of my friends, both in Britain and America, have been through a similar experience of small business and start-ups. I know the problems they have faced, as well as the successes some of them have had.

This has given me great sympathy for small-scale entrepreneurs. They all have to take risks, and they are bound to go through periods of anxiety. In a large business, there is usually — though not always — a longer reaction time before a problem becomes critical. And there is generally a reserve of capital. The small entrepreneur may be dealing with issues of survival from day to day. Of course the rewards of success can be considerable, but many small businesses end up having earned no more than they might have expected as a management salary and pension. Some lose the whole of their investment.

Yet the start-up, and the small business, are part of the vitality of any economy, if only because they are essential providers of new jobs. Without small businesses, the employment prospect for Europe, including Britain, would be almost desperate. In the past two weeks, large-scale German industry has announced its intention to lay off 100,000 workers, and it is still overmanned. European unemployment is more than 10 per cent, and rising. In Spain unemployment is more than 20 per cent. Almost all the very large businesses in Europe expect to continue to increase output while reducing their

workforces over the coming years. If British unemployment is not to remain above 10 per cent for ever, or rise towards the Spanish level, small businesses, including new businesses, will have to create the jobs.

Probably it is awareness of this that has produced the new official interest in small business finance. Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, has been having private talks with the clearing banks. The Treasury has announced an official enquiry, though that has not yet started. There are of course many complaints about the banks from small businessmen, some of whom have been harshly treated during the recession, but banking has been a difficult business too: the instability of interest-rate policy over the past six years has been a problem for bankers and businessmen alike.

The recession has left scars on the confidence of both sides. Obviously banks have had to write off loans to small businesses on a huge scale. They do not want to repeat that experience. Sadly, many small businesses have come to regard bankers as problem-creators rather than problem-solvers, as people who should be regarded as potential enemies rather than reliable friends. The banks' distrust of small business lending is now about equal to small business distrust of bank borrowing.

Part of the trouble is that banks lent too freely during the 1980s boom. Banks no doubt destroy as many small businesses by lending too much as they do by lending too little, though that is not how small businessmen always see it. In the boom years, the British banks did not go so far as the now defunct Chicago bank which fired its loan officers if they did not fill their annual lending quotas, but they did overlend: that is what creates a boom, and the boom always seems to justify it. The small businessmen were over-optimistic too, after several years of rising profits and rising asset values. They were financing the equity of their businesses with short-term callable debt: that must always be dangerous, but

so long as the boom lasts, it works. Another cause of difficulty has been the change in the culture of banking that has followed computerisation. In the good old days, which lasted until quite recently, the businessman's essential need was to maintain the confidence of his local manager, with whom he could expect to have a long-term relationship. Now the manager is far more tightly controlled by a computerised credit system. The businessman who needs to extend his facilities in time of trouble cannot talk to the mysterious credit committee which will decide his fate, cannot begin to establish a relationship of confidence. That is a two-way street. If the businessman cannot establish a relationship with the bank, the bank cannot establish a relationship with the business.

Not only do modern managers have much less discretion, they are changed more frequently and retire much younger. In the late 1980s, I was dealing on different business affairs with four London bank managers, all of whom I regarded as good bankers and as friendly but prudent advisers. All four of them have now taken early retirement in their early fifties. No doubt the banks have a problem of too many branches and overmanning, but the loss of experience is very serious: all four were well able to understand a business and form a realistic judgment about its potential. The trouble with early retirement is that a bank can lose the experience of its best people.

One part of the problem is to re-establish relationship banking. Inevitably, large companies, which do not depend on bank finance, shop around for value when they are placing their money. But small businesses do not want to shop around; they want a secure and continuing relationship which will see them through the downs as well as the ups of the trade cycle.

In Germany, that is achieved by the banks taking an equity stake in many of the companies they finance, and satisfying themselves of the capacity of the management. I am not

sure that equity is the best relationship: it can obviously tie a bank to a bad business, or a business to a greedy bank. But for small businesses, something other than short-term debt finance is needed. Housing finance depends on long-term lending on fixed or floating rates. It should not be impossible to work out a similar system for small business finance. The great need is for stable lending, both in terms of the duration and the interest rate of the loan.

There is also a problem about types of security. In the 1980s, the banks overlent to small businesses against property. Much of that has proved very bad security: upward-only leases on shops or small offices could have had significant value in 1988 yet have negative value now. Private houses were often taken as security, and they too fell in value. In any case, dispossessing an unsuccessful entrepreneur is a painful thing. The best security for a business loan is the business and its future cashflow, but that is the security which is hardest to judge. If one does not actually know the risks he is taking, or how reliable his forecasts are likely to be,

one result of the banks' choice of security has been to turn many small businesses into property businesses against their will. When the property market collapsed, many businesses lost the value of their collateral. Yet the property market has always been volatile, and highly responsive to changes in interest rates. This problem has been made worse by the uniform business rate, which in many cases is now higher than the market rent. Among small businesses, the uniform business rate is resented as an unjust tax.

I think banks are beginning to work back towards a more traditional relationship with their business customers. The growth of private banking, which is avowedly relationship banking, is having an important influence. The Bank of England could well encourage fixed-interest lending by business banks which seek a corresponding long-term relationship. The medium-term, fixed-interest business mortgage would be a reasonable compromise between equity and overdraft finance, allowing proper financial planning. Good bankers help to keep small businesses out of trouble, and they are certainly needed to help them grow.

William Rees-Mogg

Jobs for the boys

IN THE week that John Major's son James got a good news item for the next generation of Kinnocks, Stephen Kinnock, 23, son of the former Labour leader, has also landed his first job — and in the process become the first member of his family to secure a job in Brussels.

Kinnock, who read modern languages at Cambridge before completing a masters degree in European political and administrative studies in Bruges earlier this year, has been appointed research assistant to Gary Tiley, Labour MEP for Greater Manchester West.

It may be a modest beginning, but young Kinnock is ahead of his father, who despite much speculation looks no closer to the top-level EC job that was thought to await him. And ahead of his mother, Glenys, who despite being selected as the Labour candidate for a safe Welsh seat must still wait for June's European elections to book her ticket.

Tiley says young Kinnock got the job because of his grasp of languages — he is fluent in French and Spanish (but speaks no Welsh)

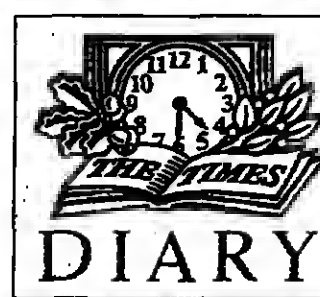
— and his sound understanding of how EC institutions work. "Of all the people I interviewed, he was the person for the job."

Kinnock sees the job as a way of using his languages, rather than as a stepping stone to greater political things. "I have no specific plans," he says from Brussels. But he is looking forward to his mother joining him. "I will probably see more of her than I did at home."

● Spare a thought this week for TBE Printers of Nottingham, who are busy reprinting 35,000 copies of an educational supplement distributed with weekly London newspapers such as *The Times*, *Morning Star* and *Evening Standard*. The supplement is a guide to independent schools, and the reprinting is being done by the firm's staff, who are working hard to get it out in time for the start of the new school year.

Hotbed of cold feet?

IN HIS 90th year, A.L. Rowse, the prolific and distinguished historian, has decided it is time to set the record straight. In particular he would like it known that All Souls, that pinnacle of Oxford aca-



deme, was not, after all, the hotbed of appeasement many believe.

In his new book, *All Souls in My Time*, published by Duckworth next month, he regrets that his 1961 book *All Souls and Appeasement* "gave people — since most people hardly read beyond a title and are certainly incapable of judging the contents — the idea that the college as such was associated with that fatally mistaken policy. This was not so."

Rowse — who says he was "always" against appeasement — admits that "a few of its leading figures in the public eye were wrong: Lord Halifax and Lord Simon, Donald Somervell and, above all, Geoffrey Dawson (then editor of *The Times*). There was no contention among them, it was just an accident."

He forgives the public for dub-

bing All Souls a bastion of appeasement — "its ordinary human foolishness to make such a mistake" — but is less easy on *The Times*. "I remember having dinner with Randolph Churchill at the time. He brought up the shocking leader which advocated giving part of Czechoslovakia to Germany. One of his guests piped up, 'I wrote that: Randolph was so angry he took up a knife.'"

Absent friends

HAVING helped to pen Paddy Ashdown's keynote address, Lord Holme of Cheltenham, the millionaire Liberal Democrat, is not hanging around to hear it. Instead the peer who helped to write both the Czech and the Lib Dem constitutions is flying to Prague — to see his old pal President Havel.

The main purpose of his visit is to attend a British Council reception for the new English College in Prague. The college intends to pass on the best of British education to young Czechs. In doing so, it aims to emulate the famous English Grammar School in Prague, which fell foul of first the Nazis and then the communists. "As ten former pupils who were there when the school closed will attend, it will be a very emotional occasion," says Holme, who chairs the fundraising

English College Foundation. But is he not sorry to miss his leader's speech? "I think I am reasonably familiar with what he has to say. Missing it will not be quite so much of a blow for me as for other Liberal Democrats."

Immanent?

NEVER MIND the Booker shortlist: *Veritas Splendor* is imminent. Publication may not be for two weeks, but the new Roman Catholic encyclical is already keenly sought after. The bookshop closest to Westminster Cathedral, St Paul's bookshop, has placed an initial order for 1,000 copies of the 130-page text. This, says Father Sebastian Karamveil, the shop's

general manager, is only the start. "We expect to sell many more than that — possibly 4,000. It is eagerly awaited."

The Vatican's presses, however, have competition. The Catholic Truth Society is also printing copies for distribution around Britain. But its general manager, David Murphy, is cautious. "We are printing about 7,000 to start with. In 1968, when the last encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, came out, we sold about 150,000. But that was more interesting — the whole world was waiting to see whether Paul VI would allow the Pill."

● With racism the burning conference issue in Torquay, Sir David Steel was seen rummaging around in the second-hand bookstall run by Tony Greaves, the original beard-and-sandals Liberal and long-time scourge of Steel's defunct alliance. He emerged triumphant with a copy of *No Entry*, the out-of-print work on immigration control that he penned more than 20 years ago. But narcissism, even Steel's self-confessed variety, does not come cheap. "I've been trying to lay my hands on a copy for years," he says. "but I must say £7.00 is an extortionate price. It cost £2 new." Greaves' reaction was laconic: "I'm always glad to take money off him."



Fight for Russia's soul

Yeltsin's battle can never be over, says

Anne McElvoy

For the past year and a half, Russian politics have been reminiscent of Churchill's incongruous image of two bulldogs fighting under a carpet. The growing has been relentless, the scraps nasty but inconclusive. Now the combatants have wriggled free of the restraining covers of constitutionality and *pro forma* tolerance of one another's position. Boris Yeltsin and his renegade vice-president, Aleksandr Rutskoi, are going for broke.

The developments of the past two days differ from previous clashes in that all the personalities involved have crossed their respective Rubicons. Mr Yeltsin has flouted the constitution twice over by dissolving parliament and declaring that December elections will be to a wholly new two-tier legislature.

Mr Rutskoi has broken his oath of allegiance to the president, demonstrating that while he is a heavily-decorated officer, he is not a gentleman. Rutskoi, Khasbulatov, the parliamentary chairman, has revealed the measure of his destructive streak by calling on the military to disobey Mr Yeltsin and on workers to stage a general strike. The fabric of compromise between vice-president and legislature on the one hand and president and executive on the other has been torn apart, and there is no way to stitch it together again.

These events are alarming, but hysterical prophecies of civil war are misleading. The pitifully small gaggle of mainly elderly communist demonstrators who have flocked to Moscow's White House to support Mr Rutskoi, and the lack of substantial pro-Yeltsin counter-protests, indicate that Russians are not keen to be mobilised in defence of either man.

This is not to say that blood conflict can yet be ruled out. Much depends on the effect of the "slow burn" in the army and security forces, under pressure from Mr Rutskoi to forsake Mr Yeltsin and also on the Kremlin leader's success in staying true to his pledge yesterday to forgo force — although it is difficult to see how he could dissolve parliament without the risk of violence.

We are entitled to be concerned about the outcome of the struggle, but not to be surprised that it is taking place at this time and in this manner. The former communist world finds itself in the doldrums of immature democracy. The emergence of the reform communists who took the largest share of the vote in the Polish elections is evidence of dissatisfaction with the social effects of economic reform. In Lithuania, the fierce nationalism of Vytautas Landsbergis has been replaced by the slower-paced pragmatism of Algirdas Brazauskas. In Azerbaijan, the old party chief and Brezhnev crony Heidar Aliyev recently returned to the helm.

Russia repeats this pattern, but being larger, more complex and powerful, its slip on the global scene is considerably more significant. Mr Yeltsin has asked Russians to accede to a revolution not only of the system but of the mind. It would be extraordinary if such a project were to proceed without crisis.

Much of the reporting of events, and the responses of Western statesmen, suggest that there is now an Armageddon-style showdown between the forces of progress and reaction, an all-or-nothing fight to the death. This shorthand is inadequate for what is unfolding. Mr Rutskoi and Mr Khasbulatov are not mere ghosts in the machine, flung to the fore by fate or by Mr Yeltsin's bad management of the country. They represent a long-standing interpretation of Russia's destiny as distinct from the Western cultural tradition, as a land not only unsuited to fully fledged capitalism and participatory democracy, but superior to these aims.

Mr Rutskoi talks of the country's "sacred soil". Mr Khasbulatov of Russia as the "God-bearing state". Phony as such phrases sound coming from scheming men with an eye to the main chance, they pick up echoes from throughout Russian history — from the authoritarian rule of the Tsars to the communist experiment. Equally, Mr Yeltsin's erratic but forceful modernisation reflects the 19th-century yearning for integration into the mainstream of Western political and economic life. The two visions are powerful but irreconcilable.

I cannot count the number of people who have asked since I arrived in Moscow which way I think Russia will go. Our view of the place is dominated by an expectation that after all the quarrelling there will be a final result: a winner and a loser. But instability is in the soul of Russia. Its identity lies in a ceaseless search for national certainties which, once achieved, turn out to be transient and give rise to the next quest.

If things go well this week, the army will stand by its word and the opposition will back away from the prospect of broken heads on the street, and allow peaceful elections in December. Mr Yeltsin may emerge stronger for the test. If however he loses his grip on events, the tendency will be a return to a centralised, moribund regime in the Kremlin, with Mr Rutskoi reviewing the troops on May Day. Such is the state of today's battle for Russia: the latest but by no means the last.



CHOICE AND SPLENDOR

The papal encyclical includes a crucial amendment

The final version of the papal encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, disclosed today in *The Times*, is a severe, morally forthright document. It will certainly not resolve the divisions in the Catholic Church and will probably compound them. Faced with the creeping influence of liberalism, permissiveness, and secularisation, the Pope has issued his flock of 800 million worshippers with a stern call for moral conformity. Yet the key amendments which have been made since the draft of the encyclical appeared suggest a shrewd awareness of the difficulties ahead.

There have been few more caustic attacks on the post-Enlightenment world-view than *Veritatis Splendor*. The encyclical is fiercely critical of the modern tendency to "exalt freedom to such an extent that it becomes an absolute" and of the "illusory freedom" of scepticism and relativism. It warns of "an alliance between democracy and ethical relativism", fuelled by the dissenting cacophony of the media. Though such strictures are commonplace in Catholic debate, they are accompanied by quite specific prohibitions in *Veritatis Splendor*.

No quarter is given to those who would moderate the Church's hostility to homosexuality, abortion and artificial contraception. Birth control by outlawed methods, for instance, is described as "intrinsically evil", an act which cannot be mitigated by circumstances. The encyclical also attacks the blurring by many modern theologians of the distinction between venial sin, which does not destroy a person's relationship with God, and mortal sin, which by its very nature blocks forgiveness. Liberal Catholics will find little to comfort them within these 120 densely-argued paragraphs.

This thunderous statement of first principles — more rigorous even than the 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which forbade contraception — will provoke a torrent of theological analysis. But its polemical core is quite clear: the authority of the *magisterium* vested in the Vicar of Christ is extended to

private morality more explicitly than ever before. The Pope has served notice that he will not tolerate those who would pick and choose their doctrines and cordon off areas of their private lives from the judgment of the Church. The falcon will be made to hear the falconer.

This swing back to papal authoritarianism may provoke a schism within the Church, especially in America where opposition to Vatican dogma on the ordination of women, abortion and birth control is powerful. The ancient battle between conciliar and absolutist traditions will rage once again, with unpredictable consequences. Posterity may not look kindly upon this Pope's stubbornness.

Nonetheless, his refusal to yield to criticism has not been absolute. Unlike the draft, the final version of the encyclical does not extend papal infallibility — a word which is now conspicuous by its absence. The First Vatican Council decreed that the Pope's ability to speak unerringly is not a permanent gift but a temporary attribute divinely bestowed upon him by God only in precisely defined circumstances. In contrast, the draft of *Veritatis Splendor* threatened to extend infallibility almost indefinitely. The very notion of theological debate would have been called into question.

Though the Vatican will make little of this concession, it is a vital one. It means that future papal utterances on questions of private morality can be vigorously discussed, as they must be. Like *Humanae Vitae* and *Veritatis Splendor* itself, they will not be infallible, allowing the possibility of papal error. Believers will be forced to reconcile for themselves the conflicts between conscience and teaching, authority and private belief. None of this moderates the stern message of Pope's new encyclical. But by leaving the door ajar — however slightly — to conscientious rebellion, he has transformed a mere dictat into a moral challenge that will echo around the world.

HIDDEN LIAISONS

Paddy Ashdown should today rebut calls for electoral pacts

Simple arithmetic seems to suggest that most people in this country want a government that is not run by the Conservatives. The calculation that arrives at such a judgment — adding Labour and Liberal Democrat support in the opinion polls — is, however, not simple, but simplistic. Those who argue that the opposition parties should team up in order to oust the Tories fail to recognise the complexities of the Liberal Democrat vote. Paddy Ashdown, in his speech today, should ignore the siren calls.

Liberal Democrats are accused of wooliness not only because their activists are famously fond of socks worn with open-toed sandals. They are deliberately woolly because politics dictates that they be. They appeal to two quite different constituencies: to disaffected Tories who like to give the governing party a jolt between general elections, and to left-of-centre voters who are still not prepared to vote Labour.

Their local campaigning is, therefore, tailored to the constituency they are addressing. They do have a tendency to be all things to all men, as Tory politicians so often complain. That tendency reached its apogee in *Tower Hamlets*, where the local Liberal Democrats sank to putting out racist leaflets, to pandering to the prejudices of British National Party supporters.

Where they take seats off the Conservatives, in the south of England, Lib Dems promote themselves as the sensible, market-orientated alternative to the governing party. Where they take seats off Labour, usually in inner cities where Labour local government is run by the far left, they present themselves as the sensible, non-

loony, left-wing alternative. Such is the fate of a centre party.

Most people know that the Liberal Democrats are, by instinct, a left-of-centre party. Their discussions at Torquay this week have reinforced this. Activists adopted the new policy document, *Facing up to the Future*, which is a deliberate rowing-back from their more free-market 1992 manifesto. But the insistence by their environment spokesman Simon Hughes that the party should "come off the fence" and join forces with Labour was naive.

In Mr Hughes' urban constituency of Bermondsey, a Lib-Lab pact would undoubtedly appeal. But in Newbury or Christchurch and many other southern seats, a pact announced before the election would merely confirm the Tories' taunt that a vote for the Liberals is a vote for Labour. That was their strongest card against the centre party at the last election and will undoubtedly be played again in two weeks' time in Blackpool and at every other opportunity between now and the next election.

If Mr Ashdown tied himself to Labour now, he would be swallowed up by the bigger party; the distinctiveness of the Liberal Democrats would disappear. He does not anyway need to do so. Voters have shown — at the last general election and in increasing numbers since — that they are prepared to vote tactically to oust a sitting Conservative. The result of such voting may eventually be a Lib-Lab government. But the chances of that outcome would be much reduced if Mr Ashdown were to signal it in advance.

A FALTERING ENGINE

Small businesses need a Budget for their futures

Britain's banks have been widely blamed for exacerbating the problems of small businesses during the recession. The banks, in their own defence, cite the billions of pounds they have lost in lending to small businesses. Both sides have a point. It is time to call a truce in this argument and look for constructive solutions.

This week it emerged that Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England, had called in top executives of the big four clearing banks to discuss his worries that an improvement in the economy could be held back unless they did more to support small businesses. Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, in an article in *The Times* on August 25, came up with his own suggestions on how finance could be designed to help small enterprises weather the economic cycle.

Small businesses in Britain are far more reliant on floating-rate overdrafts than their counterparts on the Continent. In this country, 58 per cent of their finance comes from overdrafts, compared with 31 per cent in France and a mere 14 per cent in Germany. This makes them both extremely vulnerable to rises in interest rates and more subject to the whims of their bank managers. A manager can, at any time, insist that an overdraft be repaid, while he cannot call in a five or ten-year fixed-term loan.

The government has been trying to encourage banks to lend for longer and at fixed rates through its loan guarantee scheme.

The banks, however, have shown some reluctance to make these loans. Many businessmen do not qualify for the scheme since they have to put up all their assets as security, including the family home. Bankruptcy is hard enough to contemplate without the threat of repossession too.

Late payment is another big problem for small businesses, cited by one in five as a real threat to their survival. Businesses are owed an estimated £50 billion in overdue debt; and when customers do not pay up, firms are forced to rely more and more on their banks at time when bank lending is being cut back. For years, small business lobbies have called for a statutory right to charge interest on late payments. But the government has preferred to encourage codes of conduct, a self-regulatory approach that has so far proved ineffective.

Mr Davies proposed in his *Times* article a package of measures to improve small business finance, including tax incentives for "business angels" to replace the business expansion scheme; 100 per cent capital allowances for investment of up to £200,000; a move by the banks towards equity involvement and medium and long-term finance; and better management training for entrepreneurs. Since then these ideas have been widely debated in Whitehall and beyond. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has doubtless read the CBI's proposals. In his November Budget he can show that he has read them well.

Unresolved issues in the Middle East

From the Director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding

Sir, While this council welcomes with great hope the recent peace accord between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the government of Israel, other regional issues are also in urgent need of resolution.

In 1967, after Israel seized the Syrian Golan Heights, approximately 120,000 Syrians — or 95 per cent of the total population there — were forced to flee from their homes. Subsequently, almost all their villages (133 out of 139) were destroyed by the Israelis. Syrian residents who remained were subjected to systematic persecution (including the confiscation of their land and water).

In addition, considerable numbers of Israeli citizens have been permitted to settle in this territory and, in 1980, Israel formally annexed the Golan Heights. This is in contravention both of United Nations resolution 242 and of the wishes of the indigenous population.

Although we hear a great deal about Israel's security needs, there is surely a case to be made for Syrian security. Mount Hermon, which Israel now controls, looks directly over the Syrian capital, Damascus.

In southern Lebanon, the situation is somewhat different. Here Israel has no claims whatsoever to explain its illegal presence, other than concerns for security. UN resolution 425 insists on immediate Israeli withdrawal. In July of this year, Israeli forces once again bombarded the villages of southern Lebanon, causing extensive loss of life and property and a mass exodus of the terrified local population.

While we are encouraged by the start that has been made at resolving the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and give it our support, we fear that until blatantly unjust situations such as Israel's illegal occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon are ended, there can be no deep and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD MULLS,
Director,
Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding,
21 Collingham Road, SW5,
September 20.

Goring and Equity

From the General Secretary of Equity

Sir, Julia Llewellyn Smith, in her interview with *Marius Goring* ("An old trouper who fights for the truth", September 13), states that "Equity still forbids its members from visiting South Africa". This is not true. Equity has no authority nor does it seek to "forbid" its members from working in South Africa. All that we do is to advise members that if they accept engagements there the union may not be able to protect them.

The suggestion that Mr Goring is battling with the "ultra-left wing of the acting union" on this issue is equally inaccurate. Mr Goring has challenged some of our policy decisions, which include a ban on sales of television and radio programmes to South Africa, taken by referendum of the union's 45,000 membership. The Equity Council, the union's elected governing body, is obliged to abide by the results of such referendums.

The union is about to put these policies back to the membership in a further ballot within the next few weeks. I very much hope that Mr Goring will be prepared to accept the members' decision, whatever the outcome, and drop his legal challenge. Incidentally, and perhaps ironically, Mr Goring was one of the members of the union most responsible for ensuring that referendum decisions were paramount within the union's constitution.

Yours sincerely,
IAN MCGARRY,
General Secretary, Equity,
Guild House,
Upper St Martin's Lane, WC2.

Drinking sensibly

From Mr Eric Appleby

Sir, Dr John Rae's letter (September 13) betrays muddled thinking. The grants programme operated by Alcohol Concern is a one-off £6 million spread over five years, not an annual figure. That money enables local voluntary organisations to enter into partnerships with the NHS and local authorities to help people with drink problems and also their friends and families who may be suffering the consequences.

Much of the help is information or advice which prevents a small problem turning into a large one and fulfils exactly the sort of educational function that Dr Rae appears to want. The vast majority of alcohol-related harm is caused, because there are so many of them, by people who drink moderately but on occasions take things to excess. Reducing the number of heavy drinkers is part, but by no means all, of the answer.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC APPLEBY,
(Director), Alcohol Concern,
275 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

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Sports letters, page 42

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Major at the helm: misgivings in the Tory heartlands

From Mrs Christine Speight

Sir, The area chairmen of the National Union of Conservative Associations, led by their president, Dame Wendy Mitchell (letter, September 22), are living in an unreal world. I recently wrote to nearly 200 constituency chairmen all over the country setting out my understanding of Conservative principles and the dangers to the country and the party of abandoning them.

I have been saddened, but not astonished, by the bewilderment and sense of betrayal that responses to my approach show. Today, for example, a chairman writes: "I [ministers] only listen to those who are out of touch with reality and say what they want to hear." He continued that he expected to recruit no new members this year as he "had enough trouble keeping" those he already had.

Ministers, and the area chairmen, seem to persist in thinking that recovery in the economy will do the trick. It won't, because although floating voters may return to the fold, the outraged core of the party appear to me to be in revolt at what they see as the betrayal of everything they believed the party stood for.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,
20 Ramillies Road, W4,
September 22.

From Sir Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend East (Conservative)

Sir, While most Conservatives will applaud the loyalty and commitment of the hard-working voluntary office-bearers of the National Union of Conservative Associations, I believe that the argument they advance on the economy is not the strongest weapon they could use.

To argue, as they do, that the UK is poised to be the fastest-growing economy in the EC carries little weight when the EC is awash with unemployment, industrial decline and uncompetitiveness — largely as a result of the high-cost, protectionist, socialist and wasteful policies of this absurd organisation.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD MULLS,
Director,
Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding,
21 Collingham Road, SW5,
September 20.

From the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union

Sir, Further to your report (later editions, September 22) of my call for candidates of all democratic political parties to endorse a declaration against racism in future elections at all levels, I should like to explain why I believe such a move to be necessary.

If we are to defend our democratic values, I believe that we all have a responsibility to speak out before racism wins legitimacy at the ballot box, rather than waiting until afterwards. It is no use taking a stand after the votes have been counted. In future, every candidate of a major political party should go into the election clearly and publicly committed to opposing racism, leaving no ambiguities in the public mind.

I have written to the leaders of all our democratic political parties, asking them to agree to the drawing up of such a declaration. A positive response from them will avoid future situations where the major parties appear to pander to prejudice, as is alleged with regard to the Liberal Democrats in Millwall, and help to restore confidence to the tens of thousands of our citizens unmoved by the Millwall campaign and its result.

Yours sincerely,
BILL MORRIS,
General Secretary,
Transport and General Workers' Union,
Smith Square, Westminster, SW1,
September 22.

From Mr P. F. Burrows

Sir, Comment on the Millwall by-election has largely come from those who were not there. May one who was eligible to vote but did not — a decision which, in spite of the result, I still regard as correct in view of the main candidates attacking one another instead of addressing local issues — add two points.

TV news quality

From the Chief Executive of ITN

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's opinion of a decline in ITN ("Wallpaper evenings on the small screen", September 20) has no basis in fact. In all the key measures of a news organisation's strength we are more than a match for the BBC.

1. Ratings: *News at Ten* is Britain's most popular television news programme — consistently ahead of the BBC's *Six O'Clock News* and *Nine O'Clock News*.

2. Reputation: public opinion research, for example by NOP and the Independent Television Commission last year, showed ITN and the BBC neck and neck in credibility and influence, with ITN seen as more independent of government influence.

3. Exclusives: ITN reporters have consistently come up with major exclusive stories, from the discovery of the Bosnian camps to having the only television correspondent in Baghdad during the recent US air attack.

4. Analysis: *Channel 4 News* is accepted as the front-runner among an-

alytical news programmes. Its interviews are regularly front-page news in the quality press, including *The Times*.

5. Awards: ITN has won 24 domestic and international awards so far this year. Our discovery of the Serbian camps won us our third Baffa News Award in successive years. ITN has also become the first British news organisation to beat the American news on its home ground by winning two of America's top awards, the Emmys.

I may only recently have taken over as chief executive of ITN but my years at *The Economist* taught me to recognise a brand-leader when I see one.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GORDON,
Chief Executive,
Independent Television News Ltd,
200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1,
September 20.

From Mr Andrew K. Smith

Sir, Few grassroots Tory activists will be impressed by the mob of gang-crazy party officers dragged in to endorse Dame Wendy Mitchell's ridiculous letter of support for John Major.

In the course of 23 years' solid work for the party, during which I held senior office at both constituency and area level, I cannot recall any period of total demoralisation comparable to the situation we now face.

The Tory party is a geriatric organisation, now in an advanced state of decline. Can all this be blamed on Major? Of course not, for the man himself is but a symptom of the decay of the party that produced him.

Yours faithfully,
A. K. SMITH,
Flat 6, 93 Cowcross Street, EC1,
September 22.

From Mr Louis FitzGibbon

Sir, Both John Gummer and Gillian Shephard spoke yesterday for the prime minister, and their sentiments are echoed today by Peter Brooke's cruel cartoon, an apology by Lord Wyatt and your second leading article, "Sounds of stirring". But these small salvos amount to no more than the sound of pistol fire, and they last only an instant.

What is wanted is a broadside from a said-to-be loyal Cabinet, sending out a reverberating roar through a joint statement to this effect: "None of us would accept the premiership if offered or wish to serve any other prime minister than John Major in the foreseeable future."

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,
8 Portland Place,
Brighton, East Sussex,
September 21.

From Mr R. E. Manley

Sir, A propos Philip Howard's analysis of the prime minister's description of some of his colleagues ("Mr Major and his metaphors", September 22): if the Conservative party were to hold a leadership election this autumn, would the loser be described as "a few seats short of a majority"?

Yours faithfully,
R. E. MANLEY,
78 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.

From Mr Louis Heren

Sir, As a former East Ender, may I remind Paul Barker ("How the East End breeds extremism", September 18) that the thousands who stopped Mosley and his fascist thugs at the so-called Battle of Cable Street were mainly ordinary East Enders. This surely proved that the East End was not "the heartland of British fascism".

Oswald Mosley and Major W. Evans-Gordon, MP, were not born there; nor for that matter were the vast proportion of Britons attracted to Hitler. They came from the more salubrious areas of the country, some from the best addresses.

Mosley made the East End his focus for the simple reason that he believed unemployment and poverty breed extremism. They often do. Politicians and you, Sir, should take note.

Yours etc,
LOUIS HEREN,
Fleet House, Vale of Health, NW3,
September 18.

From Mr Jonathan P. Butler

Sir, Instead of constantly suggesting that the voters of Millwall could be influenced by the respective party propaganda put out, cannot the three main political parties accept that the voters actually wanted a BNP councillor? They were clearly unhappy with the previous situation and wanted to reject the unpopular Liberal policies.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN PIERS BUTLER,
Flat E, Mulberry Court,
2 Highbury Hill, Islington, N5,
September 5.

Getting on now

From Dr Roy Davies

Sir, When I ask the age of a patient of "middle age", he replies that he is 59 or sometimes says: "I'll be 60 in December." The same question addressed to a patient who is "getting on" (letters, September 7, 10, 14, 20) will normally elicit the response, "I am 82½ now", or even, "I am 82½ in three weeks and hoping to make it to 83". This begins again in the eighth decade, having ended in the first.

I remain, Sir, yours sincerely,
ROY DAVIES,
19 Wimpole Street, W1.

From Mr J. W. Musselwhite

Sir, I can sympathise with Mr Paul Wapshott (letter, September 20) in his observation concerning rugby props' names (Darren, Wayne, etc.). I got out when those same players started putting their gold earrings into the dressing room valuables bag.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. MUSSELWHITE,
55 Bredero Drive, Raymote Rise,
Banchory, Kincardineshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR TORKEL OPSAHL

Professor Torkel Opsahl, Norwegian human rights lawyer, died of a heart attack in Geneva on September 16 aged 62. He was born on March 17, 1931.

AFTER a 35-year career as a Norwegian constitutional expert and international human rights lawyer, Torkel Opsahl became known in Britain and Ireland in the last year, principally for his chairmanship of the independent commission, which bears his name, examining ways forward for Northern Ireland which bears his name.

He graduated from the University of Oslo in 1955 with the highest mark of any Norwegian law student this century. Among his contemporaries in the law faculty were the current foreign minister, Johan Jorgen Holst, and the UN mediator in the former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg. Opsahl went on to do postgraduate work in both New York and Moscow, a highly unusual academic programme in the coldest period of the Cold War. He earned his doctorate with a dissertation on the delegation of parliamentary authority and, in 1965, became Professor of Jurisprudence at his old university, specialising in constitutional and international public law. However, his legal talents were soon being sought on a wider stage.

He was a founding member of Amnesty International, and in that capacity was an observer at the Daniel and Shynavsky trial in Moscow in 1966. He was a member of the European Commission of Human Rights from 1970 to 1984, during which time he handled the Irish government's case against the British government which led to the latter being found guilty of the "inhuman and degrading treatment" of internees in Northern Ireland in 1971.

He was a man of strong, if quietly-held, principles. He had been an adviser to the committee awarding the Nobel Peace Prize throughout the 1960s, but resigned unobtrusively in 1974 in protest at the award of the 1973 prize to Henry Kissinger and his North Vietnamese opposite number, Le Duc Tho.



He was a pioneer member (and later both rapporteur and vice-chairman) of the UN Human Rights Committee. His services as an international investigator and observer were constantly in demand. He investigated conditions of workers in Israeli-occupied territories for the International Labour Organisation in 1976. Twice in the 1980s he was part of UN missions examining conditions in prisoner-of-war camps in Iran and Iraq. In 1991 he was sent by the Norwegian foreign ministry to look into the human rights situation in the Baltic countries.

At the time of his death he was acting chairman of the UN commission investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Since 1974 he had been a member of the International Commission of Jurists. In 1987 he also became the founding chairman for the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights.

In the middle of these multifarious

commitments, Opsahl maintained a strong interest in Northern Ireland. When in March 1992 he was approached to chair an independent commission set up by the Belfast-based citizens' group Initiative 92, to enquire into ways forward for the province, he accepted immediately.

The so-called Opsahl Commission gathered over 500 written submissions from all sectors of Northern Ireland society and held six weeks of public hearings last winter. In its 464-page report, *A Citizens' Inquiry: The Opsahl Report on Northern Ireland*, published in June, the commission put forward 25 recommendations of its own. The most controversial of these were that Northern Ireland should be governed by a devolved administration drawn equally from the unionist and nationalist sections of the population, with the representatives of each having a mutual right of veto; that the Irish

nationalist aspiration should be formally recognised in British law; and that the government should open informal channels of communication, through Sinn Féin, with the IRA. The report was generally welcomed by the British and Irish governments but condemned by Northern Ireland's politicians.

In an interview earlier this year, Torkel Opsahl spoke of his belief that the task of lawyers was to find "honourable compromises", particularly in conflict zones where groups of people fight to the death using clashing demands for national self-determination. He did not believe such self-determination was a helpful concept, especially in Northern Ireland.

Torkel Opsahl is survived by his second wife and four children, a son and daughter from his first marriage, and a son and daughter from his second.

PROFESSOR DONALD BARRON

Professor Donald H. Barron, pioneer of foetal physiology, died in Gainesville, Florida, on August 23 aged 88. He was born in Flandreau, South Dakota on April 9, 1905.

UNTIL the 1930s, scientific knowledge of a foetus could only be developed by indirect information or examination of babies and placentas after they were born. The field of foetal physiology was first mapped out by the work of Donald Barron. Joseph Barcroft and Bryan Matthews in Cambridge between 1935 and 1940. It was the beginning of a lifetime's study for Barron who continued to work on foetal problems until earlier this year.

Donald Barron was born into a South Dakota farming family. Life revolved around the deep frost winters which dictated the annual farming cycle, and Barron's first lessons in biology came from studying the farm animals around him.

Barron wanted to read medicine but family circumstances dictated otherwise. He went instead to Iowa State College gaining an MSc in 1929 and moving to Yale where he finished his PhD in zoology in 1931. Here he became involved in the new science of neurophysiology.

In 1935 Barron went to Cambridge where he hoped to work with the neurologist Walter Brain (later Lord Brain) in neurophysiology. Brain was out of town that month and by chance Barron met Joseph Barcroft, the physiologist, over afternoon

tea. Barcroft was intrigued by this bright young man and having just acquired a flock of 50 ewes asked Barron to help him in making physiological measurements on them.

Barcroft enabled Barron to stay with him by getting a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in New York and so started Barron's work in foetal physiology. Barron's first experiments on an early lamb embryo recorded its chest movements at a stage of gestation when most scientists would not have credited that the embryo could make respiratory efforts.

From the Cambridge laboratories there followed pioneering work on foetal respiration, enabling the measurement of gas exchange to the intra-uterine foetus while pregnancy was proceeding. This was followed by work on foetal growth, placental exchange and foetal circulation, published in a series of papers and chapters by Barron, Barcroft and Matthews.

In 1940 Barron returned to America and in 1951 he was made Professor of Physiology at Yale University. Here his ability as a teacher attracted a group of bright, young American and European obstetricians and physiologists.

Barron was by now able to refine his experimental model by placing vascular catheters into the lamb in the uterus, thus allowing a longitudinal series of measurements to be made in late pregnancy, through delivery and into the immediate time afterwards.

Through this he was able to provide valuable physiological information of how human respiration begins. Thousands

of babies who would have died survive now thanks to his work on foetal sheep.

On retirement from Yale at the age of 65, Barron went to Gainesville in Florida where the Wayne Wright Foundation built him a foetal physiology laboratory. The then chairman of the Department of Obstetrics, realising the potential of Barron's work, encouraged him, even though he was a non-clinician, to join all ward rounds and teaching sessions.

Barron spent the next twenty years there, grudgingly coming to terms with old age rather than lifting the sheep manually on to the laboratory bench he agreed to use a fork-lift truck. Gainesville became a point of pilgrimage for many who wished to recharge their faith in experimental research and Barron was able to continue his work there until only a few months ago.

Barron was a great Anglophile who had enjoyed his time in England — the Cambridge atmosphere suited his combination of teaching and research talents. He was made a fellow of St John's College and given many honorary awards in his life including, in Britain, honorary memberships of the Anatomical Society and the Physiological Society of Britain, and honorary fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine.

In 1967 he was made a fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Donald Barron is survived by his wife Annette, whom he married in 1932, and by one of his two daughters. The other predeceased him.

DONALD MacKENZIE

Donald MacKenzie, playboy, professional thief and crime writer, died on September 20 aged 85. He was born in Toronto, Canada, on August 11, 1908.

ALTHOUGH hardly a name to win immediate recognition, except among aficionados of his work, Donald MacKenzie was a prolific (and in his earlier years) a highly successful writer of crime novels. Crime was his subject, his chief interest and, at one time, his profession.

Born in Toronto of respectable middle-class parents, he attended Upper Canada College, sometimes called "the Eton of Canada". He was then sent to Switzerland, where he learnt to speak fluent French. Later, he also picked up a sound knowledge of German and acquired a reasonable command of Spanish and Portuguese.

His linguistic ability, allied to nerves of steel and a love for anything shady, were prime resources when eventually he found what he believed to be his true role in life as an international con man, and itinerant jewel thief. Trained by a dandy of the old school, "Doc" Springer, he burgled

and film-flamed his way across most of Western Europe. The outbreak of war in 1939, however, was ultimately to prove both his downfall and redemption.

Stranded in London and short of money, MacKenzie stuck to the only trade he knew: the theft of diamonds. Then he turned his hand to stolen ration books. Stolen, needless to say, by him. A suitcase full was discovered under his bed and he was arrested. Foolishly, granted bail, he fled first to Casablanca, then to America, where he was caught in the act of relieving a lady of her jewellery and arrested yet again. But on this occasion he did not have the chance to run. He was sentenced to three years in Auburn Penitentiary in up-state New York.

He served his time constructively tutoring fellow inmates in French and, more significantly, starting to write. As he told the tale, it was not literary ambition that inspired him but a deep and abiding allergy to grey, stone walls and heavily-barred windows. He sent the initial efforts to a literary agency — Russell & Volcaning in New York City. They saw he had talent and offered

encouragement. So, duly encouraged, MacKenzie persevered in those adverse conditions and, within months, was selling stories to such well-known journals as *Colliers*, *Atlantic Monthly* and the *Saturday Evening Post*.

His apprenticeship may have come to an end, but past debts still remained to be paid. MacKenzie was sent back to England at the completion of his sentence and condemned to an additional three years in Winchester Prison. But he continued to write and, when finally released, he had established himself as an author. His first books — *Gentlemen at Crime* and *Occupation: Thief* — were autobiographical. After these confessional accounts, he concentrated solely on fiction.

MacKenzie now enjoyed a period of relative prosperity. Earning enough to indulge his restless temperament, he rented a series of houses in France, Spain, Portugal and Ibiza. Spurred on by a desire to speak his native language (he was barred from re-entering the United States because of his criminal record) he also lived in Ireland and England. His books not only brought royalties, but several were



made into films. Trevor Howard and Dorothy Dandridge starred in *Moment of Danger*, but undoubtedly the most memorable, produced in 1958, was *Nowhere to Go*, scripted by Kenneth Tynan, which introduced Maggie Smith to cinema audiences.

MacKenzie married in 1950 and had a daughter, Caroline. The marriage did not last and he went on to forge a number of relationships, one of them in 1965 producing a second child, another daughter, Kirsty.

A cradle Catholic, he was an adherent of the Tridennine Mass, held strong right-wing political opinions and believed firmly in order; so long, that is, as it did not apply to him.

In his final years his books having become less fashionable and thus less profitable, he lived entirely alone in a single room at the top of six flights of stairs in a house in west London.

Donald MacKenzie wrote 42 books, 15 of them featuring John Raven, an ex-detective with, not surprisingly, a broad anarchistic streak, a penchant for breaking the rules and a profound distaste for hypocrisy, official or otherwise. His latest and last novel, *The Sixth Deadly Sin*, will be published this December.

He is survived by his two daughters.

Lieutenant-Colonel His Honour John Barrington Taylor, MBE, TD, retired circuit judge, died on September 10 aged 79. He was born on August 3, 1914.

JOHN TAYLOR was among the first to take advantage of the Courts Act, which came into effect over 21 years ago, opening up jobs in the criminal judiciary to solicitors.

He was then not only the corner in his home city of Bath, but the local county court registrar. Until 1960, he had been in private practice, senior partner in the well-established Bath firm of Tiley, Long and Co, and already a familiar figure on the Western circuit — with a taste for defending clients in the lower courts.

In 1972, however, following the relaxation of the Bar's historic monopoly, he became a Crown Court recorder and, after serving as such for the statutory minimum period of five years, was appointed a judge on the south eastern circuit. He was based first at Snarebrook, then Southend and finally Chelmsford — from where he retired in 1989 after 12 years on the bench.

Despite his varied career, John Taylor was born to a business background rather than a legal one. His father was managing director of the nationally-known Bath department store of Jolly's.

The late Queen Mary, while living at Badminton during the war, made regular shopping expeditions to the store and became a close personal friend of Taylor Senior, exchanging birthday cards and family gossip over tea.

Young John went to King Edward's School, Bath, before being articled and taking a London law degree externally. Admitted as a solicitor in 1936 he practised for only three years before war broke out.

Commissioned into the Somerset Light Infantry (SLI) he was on active service overseas from 1942 until VE-Day, first in the Western Desert and then in Italy. He later served with the Allied Control Commission for Austria. For his

last three years in the Army he was on the adjutant-general's staff, first with the 5th Corps, then in Vienna and finally in Milan — from where he was demobilised as a lieutenant-colonel in 1946. He always took great pride in his military MBE, awarded while he was in Austria.

Taylor then enlisted in the Territorial Army, eventually being given command of the 4th/5th Battalion of the SLI, for which he was given the Territorial Decoration.

In his younger days he was active with the Boy Scouts, serving as secretary of the Bath Scouts Association — and volunteering his brother for the job when he relinquished it.

His other chief interest was the Church. A devout Anglican, he was churchwarden for many years at his local church of Claverton, belonged to the parochial church council and was treasurer, then vice-chairman, of the Diocesan Mission to the Deaf. He also became chairman of the

Friends of Bath Abbey, even travelling back from Essex to take meetings.

As a judge he was brisk and effective, delivering his judgments despite a lifelong stammer — which he usually managed to control while sitting in court.

His voluntary work showed a similar dedication. Whatever Taylor turned his hand to, he did thoroughly — reflecting perhaps the business efficiency he inherited.

Not only was his integrity unquestioned, but he firmly believed that justice should be seen to be done. He was scrupulous over the company he kept, preferring to socialise with fellow members of the judiciary. He was also, however, a courteous man, well liked by court officials.

John Taylor first settled in Essex when he retired, but moved to Devon to be nearer his family two years ago when his wife Aileen became terminally ill. He is survived by two of their three sons and by three daughters.



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LOTUS SUPREMACY CONFIRMED

FROM OUR MOTOR RACING CORRESPONDENT

By winning the 200-mile international Formula 1 Gold Cup race for the second successive year over the smacking parkland circuit of Oulton Park on Saturday, J. Clark again demonstrated the supremacy of the Lotus-Climax 23, his own unbeatable cornering technique, and the sheer inability of the works B.R.M.s to get within striking distance of the lightweight Lotus.

It was the last Formula 1 race of the season here, and Clark's first race since he settled the world championship title at Monza on September 8. From start to finish he stayed in front. He lapped the 2.7-mile circuit for the first time at more than 100 m.p.h. and won at a record average speed of 95.34 m.p.h., 22 seconds ahead of R. Ginther in the leading championship race to be on lap 16 from 1964.

A walk-over for Clark in his immaculate Lotus, the race torridly showed up the B.R.M.s slower cornering and weight from the first time into Old Hall corner, and steadily building up a 24sec lead. Gurney, who had won the earlier touring car race in a Galaxie, for G. Hill it has been a frustrating

ON THIS DAY

September 23 1963

Jim Clark, who lost his life in an accident during a race at Hockenheim in 1968, was thought by many to be the outstanding Grand Prix driver of his time.

season of trial and error, trying to defend his title with both old and new cars, while Lotus, who started the season fully prepared, have never looked back, and Ferrari — looking to next year — are forgoing the remaining championship races to be on lap 16 from 1964.

CROWN-WHEEL TROUBLE

Like a lightning streak, Clark left the starting grid, heading Ginther and Hill, 1 inched with the B.R.P. Lotus, and T. Mages (Jockey) into Old Hall corner, and steadily building up a 24sec lead. Gurney, who had won the earlier touring car race in a Galaxie, for G. Hill it has been a frustrating

was left on the grid with his Brabham, but J. Brabham kept his own car up among the leaders for the entire race to finish fourth.

By lap six, Ginther looked like a serious challenger, and hopes rose for B.R.M. when the No 2 Lotus of T. Taylor dropped out with crown-wheel trouble. Hill, using Ginther's slipstream for a tow, pulled up to second place on lap 30, while Brabham was being harried all the way by Ireland, with the works Coopers of B. McLaren and T. Mages lurking in their wake.

Down the straight to Knicker Brook, the leaders were rushing at nearly 140 m.p.h. Clark soon shattering his own lap record of last year (190.4 m.p.h.) to leave it finally at 1min. 39.2sec (100.2 m.p.h.) on lap 61. M. Beckwith, having his first Formula 1 drive with a B.R.P. Lotus, crashed into the barrier at Old Hall, but walked unhurt out of the wreckage. Clark was 20sec ahead of the leading B.R.M. when, on lap 56, Hill, gallantly holding second place, lost a gear and had to wave his team mate, Ginther, through, and Ireland went out of fifth place with oil troubles. Having lapped all but three cars, Clark romped home.

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY Sept 22 - Joy Foyt, of Texas, won the 300 Miles New Jersey State Fair motor race here today. J. Clark, the world champion, retired in the 50th lap.

Rural France's fading glory • Ski fever strikes early • Asian supertrain sets off

Gites in a time warp

CHEAP, self-catering accommodation in the heart of an unchanged countryside, offering a life style of rural bliss — that is the supposed attraction of France's 55,000 holiday cottages for the British, who make up a third of the gîte clientele.

I now suspect that after almost 40 years, French gîtes are about to face fierce competition from the new generation of purpose-built, self-catering villas springing up throughout Europe.

Package holidays have expanded to include small hotels and villas, which combine modern facilities and quiet, peaceful surroundings. Many tourists, used to a higher standard of living at home, are used to something better than the basic accommodation gîtes can provide.

The large, modern ships used by Brittany Ferries to sail from Portsmouth to the French ports of St Malo and Caen provide passengers with comfortable and efficient floating hotels, but the cars they carry are packed with the everyday items needed to sustain life in a gîte.

On a journey to a gîte, I was unable to get the sheets, pillows, towels and other paraphernalia we had been told would be needed into my small family car, and I had to borrow a Volvo estate.

Gîtes are graded in épis, or ears of corn. A score of one is the lowest; four, the

nearest thing to luxury. Ours was graded three. Arriving, in the evening, we found it contained even less than we had expected — not even lavatory paper or soap.

Many small, traditional shops in villages around France have now closed down because of the development of large out-of-town hypermarkets: the nearest was ten miles away.

The gîtes are comparatively inexpensive — ours was one of 1,300 used by customers of Brittany Ferries. The brochure price of £875, for two weeks for four adults, includes the sea crossing and the accommodation. To that, however,

must be added the cost of equipping the gîte with the essentials of life, including food and drink. Two weeks of appalling weather then made the short-comings of life in a gîte doubly apparent.

Few gîte owners can afford to renew furniture and equipment, redecorate, prevent damp or find ways of alleviating the septic tank smell. Many do their best, and for those with children they still have a genuine appeal. Like ours, most have swings, play areas, animals and games. But those I have visited appear stuck in a time warp and in need of improvements to bring them up to the modern standards now demanded by increasingly sophisticated tourists.

VIEWPOINT

Harvey Elliott

Customers queue for chalets

BY MINTY CLINCH

■ Ski tour operators see signs of a bumper year after the damage to their business caused by the devaluation of the pound in last year's monetary crisis

After a difficult season last winter, chalet holidays are again selling well, proving that nothing is more durable than the quaint British tradition of the house party on the slopes.

The effects of devaluation, which caught out so many chalet operators last year, will be passed on to the customer, resulting in a 5 to 8 per cent rise in prices. This rise is modest, despite the fact that the pound has settled on the foreign exchanges at 20 per cent below the rate at which prices were set and published in brochures last year.

The prices reflect the pressure on chalet tour operators, which sell 110,000 holidays a year, representing 20 to 25 per cent of the British ski market. The competition is tough.

There is an ever-ready market for skiers who love the cosiness of chalet holidays, in which they can accommodate all of their party in one house. Effectively, the chalet becomes a home away from home and holiday-makers can enjoy home-cooked food.

In only its fourth year in the chalet business, aggressive marketing has taken Crystal Holidays, which has 25,000 holidays to sell, to the top of the table. Long-term specialists Bladon Lines and its subsidiary, Ski West, jointly offer 19,000 holidays.

While the overall market leader, Thomson Holidays, continues to put the bulk of its resources into hotel holidays, Crystal has increased its number of chalets from 102 to 137 and its prices by 5 per cent. It reports strong sales, particularly in Italy and the United States.

Demand on the other side of

the Atlantic is so strong that it has acquired a further three properties in Breckenridge and one in Vail for the second edition of its brochure. Skiers must be aware that the most desirable properties in the most popular weeks are snapped up quickly.

Early bookings are never unexpected, but rapid sales of expensive holidays this year suggest the recession is on the wane. "It's not the nightmare it was last year," says Paul Chase Gardener, the managing director of Bladon Lines.

"Our clients are not looking for cheap and cheerful holidays. They really do have more to spend, and they prefer to spend it on chalet holidays because they see an all-embracing package as the hedge against devaluation."

While Bladon Lines concentrates on a limited number of proven resorts, most of them in France and Switzerland, Crystal uses resorts elsewhere. Both have a basic chalet package but Crystal's can be upgraded by a £35 premier service supplement.

Price comparisons can be misleading because properties vary so much, but on small chalets in central Val d'Isère, the two giants are remarkably in accord. Bladon Lines charges £309 to £639 for a week in Chalet les Danaides (ten beds), Crystal £299-£629 for Chalet Christophe (eight to nine beds).

The choice of chalet operator

lies between the big companies, such as Mark Warner (7,500 holidays), Ski Esprit (5,000) and Enterprise (4,700), and a host of smaller specialists, mostly companies based in one resort or companies catering for the luxury end of the market. Skiers can benefit considerably from the local expertise of one-resort operators. This is certainly true of Collongne in Chamonix and Meriski in Meribel.

The top end of the market is dominated by Ski Scott Dunn and the Ski Company. Andrew Dunn, who pioneered luxury touches, such as early morning tea and champagne breakfasts, which have become commonplace among his rivals, reports bumper bookings this year.

"We'd die for more beds in the six key weeks," he says. "For example, our £1,049 ten-day package to Courchevel over new year is a sellout."

In 1992-3, the Ski Company, increased its capacity by 70 per cent while its rivals struggled, and it has another new chalet in Val d'Isère for 1993-4. In this bullish mood, it did not hesitate to raise its prices by 20 per cent.

This gives it the most expensive chalet week of all: £1,367 over Christmas or new year in Val d'Isère. Even so, its bookings are up by 30 per cent.

Bladon Lines 081-785 3131; Crystal Holidays 081-399 5144; Ski Scott Dunn 081-767 0202; the Ski Company 071-730 9600



Ski holiday operators have reached lift-off, despite price rises of 5 to 8 per cent

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Insurance coalition to ensure fair play

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A NEW British association of companies, known as intermediaries, involved in travel insurance, is being established to regulate the activities of brokers.

The Association of Travel Insurance Intermediaries (ATII), headed by David Hall, the chief executive of Accident and General, is hoping to recruit 30 members in an attempt to set minimum standards.

Before joining, companies must have a bond to cover travellers in the event of business failure, and have a policy representing three times their gross brokerage.

The intermediaries sell the policies to travellers, whereas the travel insurance companies bear the risk.

ATII plans to lobby the government on issues relating to travel insurance. The association aims to formalise a loose link between intermediaries that has existed for many years.

This Consumers' Association's year said that some policies fall well below its recommended level of cover and exclusion clauses leave belongings uninsured.

Travellers should ensure that they are properly insured before they go on holiday, and check that both the application form for travel insurance and the policy are originals, because American hospitals may not accept copies.

Eastern luxury rides the rails

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THE inaugural journey of Southeast Asia's new luxury supertrain — the Eastern and Oriental Express — left Bangkok for Singapore yesterday amid tight but unobtrusive security.

As celebrities, including Susannah York, boarded the train for its 42-hour journey through the rice paddies, rubber plantations and jungles of Thailand and Malaysia, police were mounting a full-scale but discreet guard against possible attack by Muslim separatist groups, which had earlier attacked a train on another cross-border line in southern Thailand.

Earlier in the week, Prince Michael of Kent had travelled on the train's first run in the opposite direction in an operation which is designed to trade on the success of the Venice Simplon-Orient Express service.

The single fare is £1,513 for a standard compartment for two, including meals. The Presidential suite on the train — in which Prince Michael travelled — costs £3,947. Drinks are extra a bottle of champagne, for example, costs £80. But early projections look good: until the end of the year, the 22 green and yellow coach train, which includes two restaurant cars and an observation carriage, is booked 45 per cent.

The E & O, which has a fortune-teller and foot massager on board and was seen off by a band in Singapore playing "Colonel Bogey", is the



Susannah York: eastern journey on a new train

brainchild of James B. Sherwood, a rich American who resurrected the legendary Orient Express and who hopes to turn this opulent Asian version into a similar success.

Most of the rolling stock for the new train was built in Japan in the early 1970s and has been extensively renovated by the new partner of the Venice Simplon-Orient Express. On the earlier journey to Bangkok, travellers gathered in the push bar for a rousing sing-song, the most popular number of which was Noel Coward's "Mad Dogs and Englishmen."

On the return journey, Susannah York, dressed in 1920s flapper clothes posed for photographers on top of one of two baby elephants brought to the Bangkok station for the send-off.

Rhodes beckons

□ COSMOS (061-480-5799) has a 14-night stay in Rhodes available for up to three people sharing an apartment on a self-catering basis, departing from Manchester on October 6 for £189, including flights and accommodation.

□ GB AIRWAYS (0345-222111) is cutting the price of a weekday return fare to the Rock to £149 until mid October and to £159 at weekends. Services are daily from Heathrow and Gatwick. From Manchester the weekday price is £169. The weekend fare £179.

□ AN all-inclusive six night escorted coach tour of Scotland taking in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Skye and the Highlands is available through Insight Tours (0800-393-393) departing from London on October 4 at £425 per person. Accommodation is in five-star hotels, breakfasts and some evening meals included.

□ AVRO (0293-567916) has flight-only seats available from Gatwick to Furberventura on September 29 for £149 return.

□ Two weeks half-board at the five star Plantation Inn in Jamaica has been reduced to £1,289 this autumn — a saving of more than £500 — by Tropical Places (0342-825123). The same company is offering an all-inclusive fortnight in Couples on the same island for £1,299 including flights, accommodation, all meals, and watersports.

Eating their hearts out in Kinsale

Gourmandisers will be gathering next month at Kinsale, a small Irish fishing port which a couple of decades ago was declining fast.

Now, if the *Gourmet*, the BBC magazine, is to be believed, half of Europe is due to converge on the seventeenth International Gourmet Festival (October 7 to 10) to sample everything from lobsters and wild salmon to oysters and sausages and the black pudding they call The Clonakilty.

Kinsale (which has a population of less than 3,000) limits the numbers who can book for the whole of the four-day festival to 300. "Any more than that and we would have to have people eating in marquees," says Peter Barry, founder, organiser and tourist promotion officer. "You can't do that to people who have come from all over for

■ Whiskey salami and Clonakilty are standard fare in one Irish town

some of the best food in the world."

Visitors can buy day tickets — or just turn up ticketless to sample some of Ireland's finest at any of the town's 60 restaurants and pubs.

Some will go for the international chefs who will be working in the dozen or so restaurants which make up the Kinsale Good Food Circle. Others will be tempted by the renowned breakfasts at Mother Hubbard's café.

Afficionados advise going into gastronomic training if you are to get the best out of Kinsale. One of the high points of the festival is Friday's eat-all-you-like champagne brunch at Actons hotel, including baked hams,

venison, kippers, oysters (hot and cold), smoked salmon, 14 hand-made West Cork cheeses, Irish whiskey salami and five other Irish salamis, black and white Clonakilty pudding, fresh fruit, local yoghurts, local sausages, mushrooms, tomatoes, hard-boiled kippers, venison, roast lamb, beef, scrambled eggs with smoked salmon, porridge, bacon, hand-made preserves and bread.

It all starts at 10am or thereabouts, says Peter Jordan, owner of the Seasons restaurant. "Depending on the hangers-on from right before. These will have been earned by foodies starting off at the official 6pm opening at Actons on October 7."



Kinsale's raw ingredients

● Middle East potential ● Green controls demanded ● Emergency services grow

Tourism boost for Holy Land

By Louise Hidalgo

■ The recent peace initiatives have opened up the prospect of package tours crossing the Middle East's borders and leaving billions of dollars in their wake

ISRAEL and Egypt are to announce a historic initiative next month to boost tourism to the Eastern Mediterranean and bordering countries, including the newly created Palestinian autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

The Eastern Mediterranean Tourism Association, initially comprising Israel, Egypt, Greece and Turkey, hopes to build on the new spirit of political co-operation in the region to draw Jordan and the new Palestinian administration, and in time Syria and Lebanon, into its ranks.

The aim is to promote the region as a whole once the borders that have divided it finally open. For the first time in decades, tourists would be able to visit Petra in Jordan before heading direct to Jerusalem and on to the teeming kasbahs of Cairo. There is even talk of a high-speed railway one day linking Damascus, Beirut, Haifa, Gaza, Alexandria and Cairo with a Levantine equivalent of the TGV.

While there are many obstacles yet to overcome, the announcement, to be made at the World Travel Market in London, is a sign of growing recognition in the region of the vast tourism potential unleashed by the signing earlier this month of the peace accord between Israel and the Palestinian leadership. It also marks the realisation that co-operation is the only way to tap it.

"It is in all our interests," said Mordechai Benari, spokesman for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. "Not

only can we attract more tourists from outside the region, but we can also promote tourism amongst ourselves. There are many Israelis who would like to travel to Syria and Jordan and, if there is real peace, we may see Jordanians 'weekending' in Jerusalem."

A record two million tourists will visit Israel and the occupied territories this year, leaving behind them more than \$2.5 billion. If the borders with Israel's Arab neighbours were to open, the number could double within three years, tourism experts believe.

Already both the Palestinians and the Israelis are bracing themselves for an influx of Muslim pilgrims, who since 1967 have been denied access to Islam's third holiest shrine, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem's Old City. The West Bank town of Hebron, important to Muslims, Jews and Christians alike, has also been virtually off limits.

Walid Dajani, head of the Palestinian technical committee on tourism, admits that one of the main problems facing the new administration when it takes control of tourism in the territories next month will be how to accommodate the new visitors.

More than two decades of occupation have taken their toll on the Palestinian tourism

industry. They have less than a tenth of the hotel space of the Israelis; most of that is dilapidated and in desperate need of renovation. There are few Palestinian restaurants, many having fallen victim to the intifada. There is bitter resentment too at the strict rules governing licences for tour guides which have allowed only a handful of Palestinians to be licensed since 1967, compared with 3,000 Israelis.

Tourism is going to be one of the mainstays of a future Palestinian economy, but we are starting from scratch," Mr Dajani said. "We need to train people to work in the industry, we need to build roads, restaurants, hotels, transport. That is going to take time and a lot of investment." The PLO's six-year investment plan for the occupied territories puts the figure at \$277 million.

Jericho is already experiencing something of a boom as the possible seat of a new Palestinian administration. The town's only hotel, the 70-room Hisham Palace Hotel, has already trebled its rates.

But it is the West Bank which is likely to lay the basis for real growth. Its roads are less dilapidated than those of Gaza, and it has direct access to the Jordanian market over the Allenby bridge.



Package holidays may one day take in Petra (above) in Jordan as well as Israel

TRAVELOGS

D-Day anniversary a best-seller

EVERY hotel in Normandy, and many as far down as Bordeaux, has been booked for the fiftieth anniversary of the Normandy landings next June. Now some who made their bookings as long ago as 1989 have been "gazumped" by veteran groups prepared to pay higher prices to be in the area for the many memorial services and commemorative events. The British Legion, which has chartered the 1,500-berth Canberra, predicts that "the world and its wife" will be in Normandy from a week before June 6 to a week afterwards. Britany Ferries is not yet making reservations; it has been "overwhelmed" with advance registrations from groups from all over the world.

Jamaican compromise

THE Jamaican government has compromised over its controversial passenger levy plans, which would have meant an increase from \$10 to \$15 a head, making it the most highly-taxed destination in the Caribbean. In conjunction with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association, the Jamaican government has agreed to raise the levy in stages at Ocho Rios — which received over 60 per cent of the island's cruise passengers in 1992. It is to be increased to \$13 in January 1994 and to \$15 in September 1995.

The cruise companies have in turn agreed to look at ways to employ more Jamaicans, comply with environmental laws, buy more Jamaican goods, and increase visitor flows to the island.

Other levies imposed by the islands vary according to the destination's ability to attract visitors: Barbados, for instance, will raise its levy from \$3 to \$6 for three years while St Lucia will increase its levy from \$2 to \$7.50, with a further increase to \$10 by October 1 next year.

BA trims Euro routes

BRITISH Airways is to cut four of the 12 European routes it originally decided to keep after the takeover of Dan-Air. Passenger loads have risen to only 50 per cent from 33 per cent immediately after the takeover and the latest BA accounts reveal that the takeover finally cost £45 million instead of the £35 million quoted a year ago. In its winter schedules — to run from October 24 to March 28 next year — BA is cutting services from Gatwick to Lourdes, Perpignan and Nice in France as well as Zurich, although it says it will resume service to Perpignan next summer.

Too noisy by £30,000

AIRLINES have been fined £30,000 for 40 breaches of the night noise limits at London's Heathrow Airport since a penalty system was introduced five months ago. The money is being used to fund community projects in Slough, Windsor and four other boroughs affected.

Japanese trips a record

ALMOST 11.8 million Japanese travelled abroad in 1992, the highest number recorded in the history of Japanese overseas tourism and an increase of almost 11 per cent over the previous year. According to the Japan National Tourist Organisation, they spent a total of nearly £24.3 billion, of which £18.5 billion was on hotels, meals and shopping. Each traveller spent about £2,060, including the airfare.

October looks healthy

THE World Travel and Tourism Council says October advance bookings for European airlines, hotels and car rentals are all above last year's levels. Airlines show bookings up 5.1 per cent, while hotels and car-rental agencies show gains of 7.4 per cent and 14.9 per cent respectively.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott



Watching whales may seem environmentally friendly but could be harming the mammals

Call for green curbs

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

■ Conservations bodies, disturbed by the growing popularity of what has become known as ecotourism, are discussing how to prevent its worst effects

NATURE-watching tours, the fastest-growing niche market in travel, should be controlled more tightly to minimise disturbance to wildlife, conservationists said this week.

As two international conferences on "ecotourism" — in Brazil and Venezuela — debate the impact of tourist visits to the world's most sensitive sites, wildlife protection bodies in the UK are looking at ways to educate tour operators and the public.

One issue to be discussed at another conference, of the National Geographical Society next month, is the growing demand for more adventurous holidays, especially those with a back to nature theme. Within the past five years, wildlife trips have become available to ordinary tourists rather than just to highly equipped adventurers. The emphasis is more on observation than hunting, but wildlife protection bodies seek new regulations so tourists contribute to nature rather than destroy it.

Ecotourism was virtually unheard of three years ago. However, James Martin-Jones, the Worldwide Fund for Nature's conservation officer, said: "We would like guide-

lines that protect wildlife." Trisha Barnett, co-ordinator for Tourism Concern, a body that encourages environmental awareness among governments and operators, said: "It would be impossible to have a rating system — we do not have the finances."

Concern over the impact on wildlife was raised by two researchers from the University of California, Davis, who discovered that tourists in Nepal could be unwittingly instilling fear in rhinoceroses by scaring off shy animals from foraging. The researchers found that when a safari group was nearby, the rhinos spent more time being alert and less time feeding.

Tourism Concern says a similar problem exists in Antarctica, where up to 6,500 visitors went last year to watch wildlife. The British government believes further regulations are needed to make tour

operators give detailed information on how many people they intend to take.

Tourism Concern said that boat operators also should be careful when running expeditions to see whales.

Whale-watching began as a commercial activity in 1955 off southern California. In the past decade, it has developed rapidly: observation trips now take place around 30 countries, as well as off Antarctica. An estimated four million whale-watchers spent £185 million worldwide last year.

Erich Hoyt, an American research scientist working in Scotland with the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society, said: "The whales... need to be protected from aggressive whale-watching."

Scottish Natural Heritage, a government agency, is considering introducing rules to protect marine life in its own coastal waters.

Double crash coup for Europ

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE complicated repatriation of the survivors of last weekend's double crash and plane crashes in central France was one of well over 1,500 similar incidents organised in the last 12 months by the British subsidiary of Europ Assistance working from its Croydon headquarters.

The main company was set up 30 years ago by a Frenchman, Pierre Desnos, who was appalled by the lack of immediate help for some friends who had suffered a serious accident in Spain in 1962.

At first his idea — the creation of a form of "international rescue" — was regarded as unfeasible and for ten years it struggled to obtain recognition from insurance companies who had been used to providing financial reimbursement to travellers but no direct help.

Now the company, which is 88 per cent owned by the European insurance company Generali, has subsidiaries in 15 countries and is able to provide immediate help in 210 countries.

Its Croydon headquarters is permanently manned by a team of 20 people during the day and five at night, ready to respond to any emergency. Normally Europ Assistance acts as a contractor for individual insurance companies whose clients have run into trouble but it also provides help for employees of companies who are stranded in remote places, embassies and other large international organisations.

Although it does not have its own fleet of dedicated air ambulances, preferring to rely on chartering individual aircraft to meet the specific need, it has a sophisticated range of medical equipment in store and 1,380 contracted medical staff trained in emergency evacuation procedures.

Airports galore

IF would-be airline Air Bristol is successful in its bid to operate domestic and international BAC 146 services, the city's second airport at Filton will become the 67th in Britain to be linked by scheduled passenger flights, Harvey Elliott writes.

The increasing number of British airports offering scheduled services is revealed in this month's issue of the ABC World Airways Guide corporate edition which details changes in the global aviation industry.

"Even regular business travellers are surprised that the number is so high" said

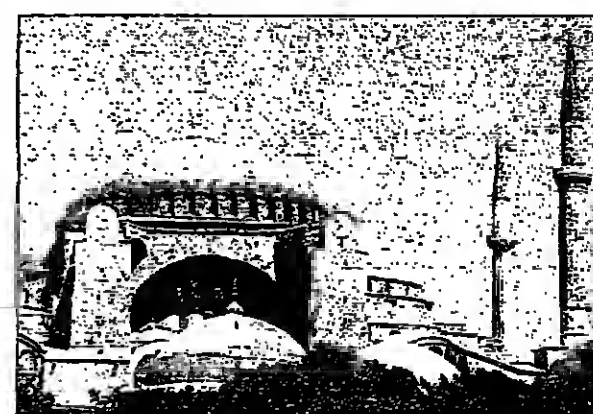
Ron Speirs, the guide's publishing director.

Britain's scheduled airport count puts it second in the western European league table, behind the 72 airports of France. Germany has 44 scheduled service airports.

The guide also reveals that British air travellers are faced with a bewildering choice of airlines. Currently there are 143 foreign and UK-based carriers providing scheduled services at the 66 British airports, 34 of which have international flights. The highlands and islands of Scotland alone contain 23 of the airports.

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The magnificent St Sophia Mosque, and Agatha Christie Hall at the Pera Palas Hotel

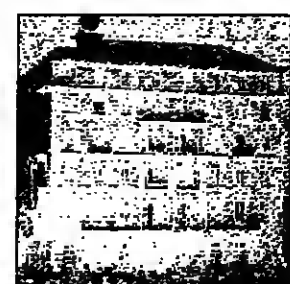
The best of Byzantium

Istanbul is one of the most fascinating cities in the world to visit. Straddling Europe and Asia, where the Black Sea meets the Sea of Marmara, it has beckoned travellers through the centuries, from its days as Byzantium and Constantinople. Visitors return time and again.

Today The Times, in association with the leading travel agents Cox & Kings, is offering readers the opportunity to enjoy the best this magnificent city has to offer.

Rooms have been booked at the elegant, four-star Pera Palas Hotel, which was built close to the Golden Horn in 1892 to host passengers arriving on the Orient Express and which retains its distinctive Eastern decor and antique furnishings.

Set on a hill, the hotel looks over the city — to the nearby Galata Tower, and across the Horn to the Topkapı palace of the Ottoman sultans, the



bustling, covered Grand Bazaar, the magnificent St Sophia Mosque (now a museum), the Blue Mosque and the Suleiman Mosque.

This Times special break is from Sunday December 5 to Thursday December 9. The price of £380 per person sharing a double room (single supplement £75) includes return British Airways flights from Heathrow (usual fare £314 return) and airport-hotel transfers. Meals have not been included as many visitors prefer to try out the many eating places offering a wide-range of superb dishes.

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NEWS

Yeltsin promises bloodless victory

President Yeltsin pledged that he would win the battle for power in Russia without bloodshed. The armed forces, interior troops and the government said that they remained loyal despite the challenge to his leadership from Aleksandr Rutskoi. General Pavel Grachev, the defence minister, whom the rival parliament claimed it had dismissed on Tuesday, appeared in uniform at Mr Yeltsin's side on a walkabout. He offered his support and that of his troops. Pages 1, 14, 15, 18, 29

Pope reaffirms birth-control ban

The Pope has forcefully restated his ban on artificial birth control and emphasised his opposition to divorce and abortion in the encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*. A copy of the final version has been leaked to *The Times* three weeks ahead of its official publication. Pages 1, 8, 18, 19

Tory activists rebel

Tory grassroots activists have attacked attempts by national and regional party officers to claim widespread party support for John Major's leadership. The officers are dismissed as "gong-crazy". Page 1

Howard angers police

Fresh confrontation between the government and police appears likely after Michael Howard, the home secretary, announced a streamlined disciplinary system, including abolition of legal safeguards. Page 5

Train crash deaths

At least 38 people were killed and 15 were missing last night after a train derailed on a bridge near Mobile, Alabama, and plunged into an alligator-infested swamp. Page 1

Short aide quits

Nigel Short's chief aide in *The Times* World Chess Championship, Lubosh Kavalec, has returned to Washington, leaving the British dangerously short of technical expertise. Page 7

Iraq 'deceived' Britain

Britain was deceived by Iraq into exporting equipment capable of making armaments in breach of the government's export guidelines, William Waldegrave, the former Foreign Office minister, told the Scott enquiry. Page 2

Sex clinic arson

A series of arson attacks on a building where it was proposed to treat child sex offenders has forced a charity to abandon its plans at a cost of several thousand pounds. Page 9

Theatres relieved

Theatres including Bristol Old Vic, Plymouth Theatre Royal and Greenwich Theatre have been saved from closure after an Arts Council about-turn. Page 2

Gazans fear feud

Thousands of Gazans paid their last respects to the PLO activist Muhammad Abu Shabab, and prayed that his assassination is not the beginning of a brutal feud between the Palestinians. Page 12

Secrets found in car

Secret papers related to the Star Wars defence project and the Rapier missile system were found in the car of an engineer accused of spying for the Russians, a court was told. Page 3

Muslim atrocity claim

Bosnian Serbs have appealed to the United Nations War Crimes Commission to investigate claims that Muslims massacred more than 50 civilians in eastern Bosnia last Christmas. Page 12

Bondage blackmail

A prostitute blackmailed a rich client and threatened to give details of their bondage session to a newspaper, the *Old Bailey* was told. Page 3

Health plan launched

A poll showed that 83 per cent of Americans backed President Clinton's health package but respondents were split on whether the proposals would work. Page 13

Parents reject marriage as too costly

More couples are choosing to remain unmarried after having children because they see marriage as a meaningless, expensive ritual that brings few benefits and often ends with a traumatic divorce. A study conducted by the Policy Studies Institute suggests that fear of divorce is one of the main reasons for the rise in long-term cohabitation. Page 3



The Booker prize judges with the six books chosen yesterday as the shortlist for the £25,000 award. From left to right are Oliver Todd, Anne Chisholm, Lord Gowrie, Martyn Goff (chairman of the Book Trust), Gillian Beer and Nicholas Clee. Pages 1, 16, 38, 39

BUSINESS

Malaya deal: A billion-pound package of deals was signed by a group of British industrialists on a visit to Kuala Lumpur with John Major. The biggest part was a memorandum of understanding covering the construction of the £2.4 billion airport at Sepang. Page 25

OLYMPIC GAMES

David Miller explains why the key to today's vote by the International Olympic Committee is whether the controversies surrounding Peking have been enough to lose it the host-city nomination. Pages 3, 42, 48

GERMAN VIEW

"Dawn came at around 4.30. It was then that I saw the enormous, fantastic concentration of ships out to sea, hundreds of them stretched out for a breadth of three or four miles." Captain Ernst During tells his tale in the D-Day landings series. Page 16

TIME TO REJOICE

At last, Hollywood has created a spectacular film that deftly balances characters and action and does not sell the audience short. Geoff Brown welcomes *The Fugitive*. Page 35

FOOTBALL

The French Football Federation has stripped Marseille of their league title and banned three players because of bribery allegations. Page 44

RACING

A Japanese attempt to buy Hernando, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe favourite, has been rebuffed. The colt seems certain to represent his owner-breeder, Stavros Niarchos, in Paris on October 3. Page 45

Worrying finding

Peanuts have never received a good medical press. Dr Thomas Stuttaford on a new scare. Page 17

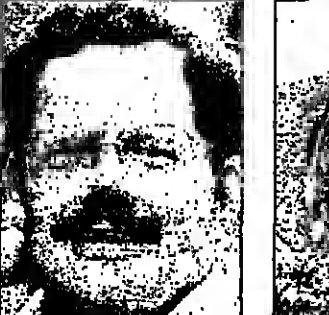
Small screen blues

For 45 years, the Prix Italia television competition has been awfully serious. Lynne Truss found this year's festival even more depressing. Page 37

Markets

The FT-SE 100 index rose 5.9 points to 3007.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped from 80.8 to 80.7, falling from \$1.5295 to \$1.5195 but rising from DM2.4694 to DM2.4748. Page 28

PEOPLE OF THE TIMES



Terry Anderson, who spent seven years as a hostage in Beirut, has launched a political organisation which he refers to as his Jihad Americana. Page 13



Shirley Bassey has been promoting Manchester's Olympic bid in Monte Carlo. She will be joined today by John Major. Pages 3, 42, 48



Tom Watson captains the American team in the Ryder Cup tomorrow. He and Europe's Bernard Gallacher are profiled by John Hopkins. Pages 46, 48

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Computers enter the polls

Ballot papers may soon be a thing of the past. Belgium is to test a system where voters will use a computer screen and light-pen in the polling booth. Page 19

Europe's drive for victory

Will Bernard Gallacher's team win the Ryder Cup? John Hopkins sets the scene for the match between Europe and America's best golfers at The Belfry. Page 46

Beatles for sale

They don't write songs like that anymore, so they just re-issue them. David Sinclair on CD's latest big release: the Beatles red and blue albums. Page 17

Poland's transition to a free-market economy is examined in *Critical Eye: Poland plc* (Channel 4, 9pm). The programme suggests there was something to be said for communism after all. Page 47

Fatal attraction

If Paddy Ashdown tied himself to Labour now, he would be swallowed up by the bigger party: the distinctiveness of the Liberal Democrats would disappear. Page 19

Papal conscience

The final version of the papal encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, disclosed today in *The Times*, is a severe and morally forthright document. Page 19

A faltering engine

There is still a serious financing problem which must be solved by Britain's clearing banks if small business growth is to be the engine of economic recovery. Page 19

ANNE McELVOY

Aleksandr Rutskoi and Ruslan Khasbulatov are not mere ghosts in the machine, hung to the fore by fate or by Mr Yeltsin's bad interpretation of the country. They represent a long-standing interpretation of Russia as a land not only unsuited to fully fledged capitalism and participatory democracy, but superior to it. Page 18

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Many small businesses have come to regard bankers as problem-creators rather than problem-solvers. The banks' distrust of small business lending is now about equal to small businesses' distrust of bank borrowing. Page 18

ANATOLE KALETSKY

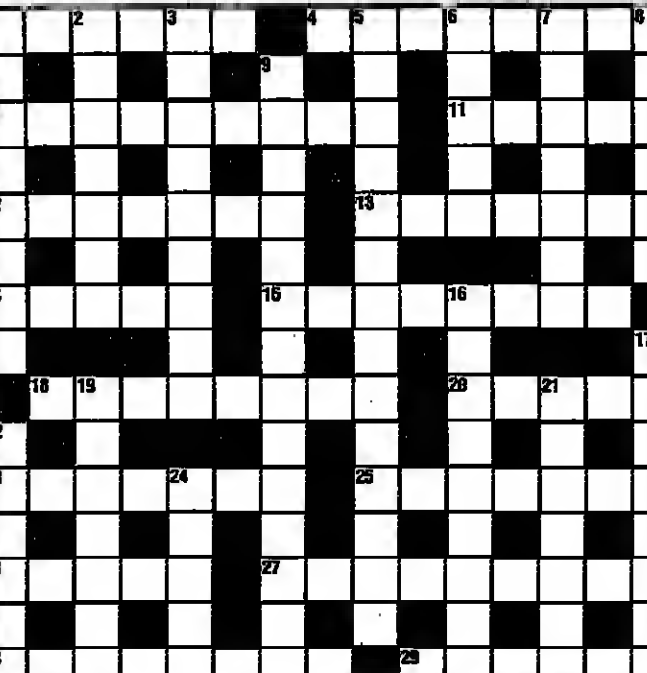
Karl Marx would be amused. The coup and counter-coup mounted on Tuesday night by Boris Yeltsin and his parliamentary opponents, had all the trappings of farce. Page 29

Lessons to be learnt from Millwall by-election result

Page 19

Yeltsin's bold coup could help consolidate Russian democracy, economic reforms and more respectful relations with former Soviet republics. — *The New York Times*
By backing Yeltsin, Clinton follows a vision of democratic stability. But the truth is that the ability of any outsider to decide Russia's fate is sharply limited. — *USA Today*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,343



ACROSS

- 1 Statue fashioned showing great craft (6).
- 4 A despicable person, a poet, used to carry a weapon (8).
- 10 Vehicle's entrance (9).
- 11 Bill is into good French food (5).
- 12 Satisfied with what's inside... (7).
- 13 ...before child becomes a recluse (7).
- 14 Eager to play in match (5).
- 15 Got off with a frivolous newspaperman (8).
- 18 Film container for television is in order (8).
- 20 Long time no see no love (5).
- 23 "Help!". Patsy cried (7).
- 25 Leading lady in horse race's finish (7).

DOWN

- 1 Dictator's car, an old banger, incomplete (8).
- 2 He prepares a horse shoe (7).
- 3 Crude column accepted by news agency (9).
- 5 Where I clean the incorrectly fired revolver (9,5).
- 6 Fish the French put in a book (5).
- 7 Attribute of a theologian (7).
- 8 Silly fellow of great importance (6).
- 9 In game (pantomime, perhaps), after death... (8,6).
- 16 ...lead to trick, hope treys will fall (3,6).
- 17 Detain gangster inside (8).
- 19 Sell something like 9 (7).
- 21 A girl to be an artist's model must be fat (7).
- 22 Attack brings 8 trouble... (6).
- 24 ...21 - nil - attack isn't carried through (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,342

BACKGROUND WASP
GOOSEBERRY THOR
OPEN ANATOMISE
TES R V Y S P
HARDLUCK WARMTH
O L E H R I O
G U S T A V T C O L E
HOUSEWORK CALF
T C S M S I W G
OAKS MANAGERIAL
U U T C U L I
T I P O J O C K E Y C L U R

WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Greater London... | 701 |
| West Surrey/Sussex... | 702 |
| Doncaster & IOW... | 703 |
| Derby & Cornwall... | 704 |
| Wiltshire/Gloucester/Somerset... | 705 |
| Berks/Bucks/Oxon... | 706 |
| Staffs/Leics/Nottingham... | 707 |
| North/South Wales... | 708 |
| West Midlands & Shropshire... | 709 |
| Shropshire/Staffs/Worce... | 710 |
| Central Midlands... | 711 |
| East Midlands... | 712 |
| Lincoln & Humbers... | 713 |
| Devon & Pows... | 714 |
| Cumbria & Cheshire... | 715 |
| N.W. England... | 716 |
| W & S Yorks & Dal... | 717 |
| N.E. England... | 718 |
| Carlisle & Lake District... | 719 |
| S.W. Scotland... | 720 |
| Edin & Fife/Highland & Borders... | 721 |
| E. Central Scotland... | 722 |
| Strathclyde & E. Highlands... | 723 |
| N.W. Scotland... | 724 |
| Wales/Hereford & Shropshire... | 725 |
| N. Ireland... | 726 |

Weathercall is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| London & SE traffic, roadworks | |
| C. London (within N & S Circles)... | 731 |
| M-way/roads M4-M11... | 732 |
| M-way/roads M1-Dartford 1... | 733 |
| M-way/roads Dartford 2-M25... | 734 |
| M25 London Orbital only... | 735 |
| M25 London Orbital only... | 736 |

National traffic and roadworks

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| National motorways... | 737 |
| West Country... | 738 |
| Wales... | 739 |
| Midlands... | 740 |
| East Anglia... | 741 |
| North-west England... | 742 |
| North-east England... | 743 |
| Scotland... | 744 |
| Northern Ireland... | 745 |

AA Roadwatch is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Southern parts and the Midlands will have showers. The rest of the country should be dry, although western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain later in the day. England and Wales will have widespread fog at first, which will be dense in places and slow to disperse. Northern areas will be mostly dry with sunny spells. Outlook: cloud and outbreaks of light rain.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: 1=Thunder, 2=drizzle, 3=fog, 4=sun; 5=cloud, 6=rain, 7=heavy rain, 8=cloud, 9=sun.

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
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| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |

ABROAD

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Notes |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
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| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |
| Algeria | 27 | SE | 100 | |

WEATHER

London 7.27 pm to 8.19 am

Bristol 7.37 pm to 8.08 am

Manchester 7.50 pm to 8.30 am

Perth 7.45 pm to 8.40 am

Full moon September 20

Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1988: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY YESTERDAY

Temp: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, rain; d, sun.

| Area | Temp | Notes |
|---------------|------|-------|
| Bolton | 12 | a |
| Birmingham | 12 | a |
| Bristol | 17 | b |
| Cardiff | 17 | b |
| Edinburgh | 14 | b |
| Glasgow | 13 | b |
| London | 17 | b |
| Manchester | 14 | b |
| Newcastle | 17 | b |
| Perth | 14 | b |
| Sheffield | 14 | b |
| Wolverhampton | 14 | b |

ROAD VEHICLE LIGHTING REGULATIONS 1988

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| London | 17 | b |
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| Newcastle | 17 | b |
| Perth | 14 | b |
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Temp: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, rain; d, sun.

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| Birmingham | 12 | a |
| Bristol | 17 | b |
| Cardiff | 17 | b |
| Edinburgh | 14 | b |
| Glasgow | 13 | b |
| London | 17 | b |
| Manchester | 14 | b |
| Newcastle | 17 | b |
| Perth | 14 | b |
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| Wolverhampton | 14 | b |

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Temp: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, rain; d, sun.

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|---------------|------|-------|
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| Birmingham | 12 | a |
| Bristol | 17 | b |
| Cardiff | 17 | b |
| Edinburgh | 14 | b |
| Glasgow | 13 | b |
| London | 17 | b |
| Manchester | 14 | b |
| Newcastle | 17 | b |
| Perth | 14 | b |
| Sheffield | 14 | b |
| Wolverhampton | 14 | b |

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Temp: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, rain; d, sun.

| Area | Temp | Notes |
|---------------|------|-------|
| Bolton | 12 | a |
| Birmingham | 12 | a |
| Bristol | 17 | b |
| Cardiff | 17 | b |
| Edinburgh | 14 | b |
| Glasgow | 13 | b |
| London | 17 | b |
| Manchester | 14 | b |
| Newcastle | 17 | b |
| Perth | 14 | b |
| Sheffield | 14 | b |
| Wolverhampton | 14 | b |

TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY YESTERDAY

Temp: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, rain; d, sun.

| Area | Temp | Notes |
|---------------|------|-------|
| Bolton | 12 | a |
| Birmingham | 12 | a |
| Bristol | 17 | b |
| Cardiff | 17 | b |
| Edinburgh | 14 | b |
| Glasgow | 13 | b |
| London | 17 | b |
| Manchester | 14 | b |
| Newcastle | 17 | b |
| Perth | 14 | b |
| Sheffield | 14 | b |
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TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY YESTERDAY

Temp: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, rain; d, sun.

| Area | Temp | Notes |
|---------------|------|-------|
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| Birmingham | 12 | a |
| Bristol | 17 | b |
| Cardiff | 17 | b |
| Edinburgh | 14 | b |
| Glasgow | 13 | b |
| London | 17 | b |
| Manchester | 14 | b |
| Newcastle | 17 | b |
| Perth | 14 | b |
| Sheffield | 14 | b |
| Wolverhampton | 14 | b |

TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY YESTERDAY

Temp: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, rain; d, sun.

| Area | Temp | Notes |
|------------|------|-------|
| Bolton | 12 | a |
| Birmingham | 12 | a |
| Bristol | 17 | b |
| Cardiff | 17 | b |
| Edinburgh | 14 | b |
| G | | |



ANATOLE KALEFSKY 29

Is democracy compatible with market reform?



ARTS 35-37

Lynne Truss on the horrors of TV's biggest festival



SPORT 43-48

US women face legal threat over Whitbread

UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE BOMB
Books, 38, 39

THE TIMES

2

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

TOO HIGH

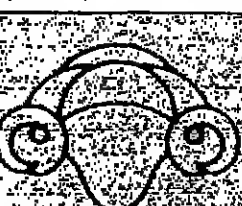


The International Monetary Fund advises that Britain must do more to reduce its public sector deficit
Page 27

TOO SOON

Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, thinks a rapid return of the ERM would be a little too hasty
Page 26

TOO MUCH



Three Spring Rain directors have been asked to resign without compensation after £36 million losses
Page 27

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5195 (+0.0100)
German mark 2.4748 (+0.0054)
Exchange index 80.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 3007.5 (+5.9)
Dow Jones 3337.91 (+0.58)
Nikkei Ave 20174.62 (-292.00)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 5 1/4%
US Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treas Bils 2.92-2.91%
Long Bond 6.13%

CURRENCIES

New York: £/\$ 1.5205
S\$ 1.8297
DM 2.4692
S\$W 1.4125
S\$FR 6.6895
S\$Yen 106.40
S\$DR 1.0819
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Plying (\$):
AU 355.00
Close 354.00-354.50
New York:
Comex 353.55-354.05

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.3 August (1.7%)
* Denotes midday trading price

The self-made 12 million-pound man

Medway Ports sold for £104m

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MERSEY Docks and Harbour, a company part-owned by the government, is making an agreed £104 million takeover bid for Medway Ports, a trust port privatised through an employee buyout only 18 months ago for £14.9 million in cash. After debts are repaid, the profit will amount to £36 million.

Four directors of Medway are expected to receive a total of more than £21 million. The 300 employees, who all own shares, will also make substantial profits, with one dockworker expected to receive £245,000 and a cleaner set to receive £160,000.

Although the management buyout team originally paid a nominal £29.7 million for the business, which owns the port of Sheerness on the river Medway in Kent, half the money went to the Treasury, and the rest was returned to the business, in line with requirements of privatisation legislation.

The low price and gearing effect of a small share capital will mean that employee and institutional investors who paid £1 a share will now receive £37.25 for each share.

While that is an unexpected blessing for the workforce, it provides scant consolation for 100 dockers who were obliged to sell their shares at £2.50 when they were made redundant in March. The shares were independently valued by KPMG Peat Marwick.

Peter Vincent, 48, the chief executive of Medway, who started work in the port at the age of 16, expects to receive £12 million in cash and shares. The finance director, Philippe Gilham, is likely to make more than £4 million, while Les Brown, the company secretary, will probably receive more than £3.5 million. AR Winter, the chairman, will make more than £1.5 million. Exact figures will depend on the company's performance.

Mr Vincent, Ms Gilham and Mr Brown will also each receive a bonus of £125,000 on completion of the deal.

Gordon Waddell, the chairman of Mersey Dock, said it was "odd" that a company with a government shareholder should be buying a privatised port, but the government stake in Mersey would be diluted from 20 per cent to about 15 per cent as a result of the deal.

Mersey Dock will pay for the acquisition with a two-for-five rights issue at 330p a share to raise £75.6 million. Mersey's gearing, after completion, will be 20 per cent.



Peter Vincent will reap about £12m from the sale of the dockyard where he started his working life at the age of 16

UK firms win £1bn of Malaysian deals

By ROSS TIEMAN
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A BILLION-POUND package of deals involving British business was unveiled by industrialists visiting Kuala Lumpur with John Major yesterday.

Signing of the projects — ranging from construction contracts to manufacturing joint ventures — was stage-managed by Britain's industry department to draw attention to the prime minister's new-style export drive.

The announcements, like those that accompanied Mr Major's visit to India and the Middle East earlier this year, appear designed to show the government's commitment to manufacturing as a means of tackling both unemployment and the trade deficit.

Thirteen of Britain's leading industrialists either travelled to Malaysia with Mr Major or flew in from Britain to coincide with his official visit. They included Lord Prior, chairman of GEC; Dick Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace; and Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group. The most spectacular deal

■ A huge batch of Far East orders will help the government demonstrate its commitment to manufacturing as a means of tackling unemployment and the trade gap

involves contractors participating in the Anglo Japanese Airport Consortium, which yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding for the design and construction of a new airport to serve the Malaysian capital.

The project, valued by British officials at US\$3.5 billion but by Malaysian officials at up to US\$8 billion, is intended to be finished by the start of 1998, in time for the Commonwealth Games. The consortium is made up of Balfour Beatty, Trafalgar House Construction, GEC and two Japanese partners — Gammon and Marubeni Corporation.

Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of BICC, said his company was delighted to be involved in "what is undoubtedly one of the most ambitious transportation infrastructure developments in the world".

Trafalgar House is involved in two other projects unveiled yesterday. The first is a joint

venture with Edaran Otomobil Nasional to build and operate a steel fabrication plant in the Klang Valley. The facility will provide structures for the petrochemical, power generation and infrastructure sectors.

John Brown, a subsidiary, has also been awarded a £120 million turnkey contract to build a gas burning power station at Pasir Gudang.

British Gas has achieved a major advance in its overseas ambitions with an agreement to take a stake in a combined cycle gas burning power station, to be built near Kuala Lumpur.

A joint venture to build buses in Malaysia is being set up by Trinity Holdings. The company will supply chassis kits from its Dennis plant at Guildford, Surrey, and body kits from the Duple Mersey factory at Tipton, West Midlands, to the company established with UMW in Malaysia.

Mr Major said his trip to Japan and Malaysia had proved very fruitful. He said: "Overall, business at the moment currently under discussion is worth at least £1 billion over the forthcoming year."

Our current and continuing exports to Malaysia are sufficient to support around 25,000 jobs in the UK.

"Today's contracts secure many thousands more jobs in Britain in due course."

Thorn EMI bruised by attacks on US offshoot

By PHILIP ROBINSON AND JON ASHWORTH

THORN EMI, the music to rentals group headed by Sir Colin Southgate, was knocked yesterday by two attacks on its highly lucrative American rent-to-buy furniture operation.

Shares fell 11p to 977p in London on a Wall Street Journal report alleging that Rent-A-Center, Thorn's single-largest profit earner, used motorcycle gangs to intimidate customers and faces Federal action aimed at capping the level of its interest rates.

Thorn has denied the most extreme of the Wall Street Journal's allegations. Meanwhile, the state of Pennsylvania is poised to sue Rent-A-Center for breach of interest rate charges and violation of debt collecting rules. Analysts fear the impact of a successful multi-million dollar claim on Thorn's profits.

In a second threat, Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the US House Banking Committee, is due to introduce proposals that would formally classify Thorn's business as a credit operation and cap the interest rates it can charge. About 30 US states limit the annual rate at 21 per cent. Pennsylvania limits it to 18 per cent.

Thorn reacted angrily to allegations of heavy-handed sales techniques, saying they appeared to stem from rumours by disgruntled former staff. Debt collectors from Rent-A-Center are alleged to have accepted sexual favours in exchange for not repossessing furniture and then taken it back anyway, enlisted the help of a Hell's Angels gang, taken back the refrigerator of a diabetic and left her insulin on the floor, and dressed up on Halloween night as a Cookie Monster, a gorilla and an alien to gain access to a home in order to take back an entertainment system on which payments had been missed for

three months. A Thorn EMI spokeswoman said: "The US management is looking seriously at the allegations, but some are made by employees who left well over a year ago." She played down the threat of the Gonzalez proposals, saying they were in draft form only.

Pennsylvania says Rent-A-Center has been charging annual rates of up to 400 per cent. Thorn now makes as much money renting refrigerators, televisions and videos as it does from record sales.

Renardo Hicks, director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said: "They have been making a killing, many of the products they rent are used and they have been making a significant amount of profit and have violated our debt collection regulations using threats and allegations of arrest."

Mr Hicks said Rent-A-Center was charging \$1,200 for a 19-inch colour television that sold at \$300 and under its credit laws should have cost just over \$354. "We are on the brink of filing a lawsuit," he said. The move comes after a 12-month investigation by agents from seven regional offices who posed as customers.

Pennsylvania says it is currently talking with Rent-A-Center, which has 18 stores in the state, about a settlement out of court. But it will insist interest rates are dropped to 18 per cent and it pays a rebate to customers of the difference between 18 per cent and the rates charged since rates were capped in 1989. Thorn bought Rent-A-Center for \$594 million in 1987 and has expanded it from 495 to 1,200 stores. Operating profits in the year to March were \$90 million on \$560.3 million turnover.

Tempus, page 29

How the boat came in at private dock

Financial markets are there to reconcile different views on what things are worth. But there are limits. In March, KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountancy firm, valued shares in Medway Ports at £2.50 each. Six months later, the directors of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company have valued them at £37.25 each, including a dividend of £4.43 per share declared by the Medway board.

The circumstances are, quite naturally, different. Mersey Docks is making an agreed takeover bid for an unquoted company. The earlier valuation was for shares that departing employees were forced, under the terms of the March 1992 buyout from the Medway Port Authority, to sell back to the company, which passed them on to other employees and outside investors. Even so, unless circumstances had changed dramatically in between, either Peat Marwick or Mersey Docks and its advisers appear to have been way off the mark in valuing shares whose price has multiplied fifteen-fold in six months.

Medway owes its existence to one of those murky byways of privatisation that deserved more attention than they received. After privatising most

state ports via Associated British Ports, and abolishing the dock labour scheme, the government wanted to make docks fully commercial. That involved privatising the ports owned by trusts that had no obvious owners and whose sole purpose was to run their ports.

Ministers had been here before. When TSB was to be floated, the Treasury decided, despite a subsequent Law Lords ruling that TSB banks had been state property, that no one owned them and that sale proceeds should go back into the private company. As so often when sudden riches arrive, most were lost on ventures into merchant banking, insurance and estate agency.

For the trust ports, government enacted that half the sale price should go to the Exchequer and half to the port company. Trustees selling their ports, therefore, essentially had to decide how much the government would get. In the case of Medway, it was about £15 million for a company with pre-tax profits of about £4



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

million before exceptional items and net book assets of £17 million. As Mersey recently discovered, Medway also had an option granted at 1984 prices by the Ministry of Defence to buy the freehold of 120 acres of Chatham Docks land close to local developments for £2.3 million — another privatisation curiosity.

Less than two years ago, Mersey Docks decided not to bid against the offer constructed by Peter Vincent and his management. It is now prepared to pay £66 million for Medway's ordinary capital, buy a further £15 million of preference shares and take on £23 million of debt. There was, as it turned out, a good commercial reason for this. After the end of the dock labour scheme, Mersey Docks, which had endured years of fire and emerged in a new form, made 300 more dockers redundant through an agreed scheme costing £10.7 million.

The old Medway trust port had some way to go in de-manning. Mr

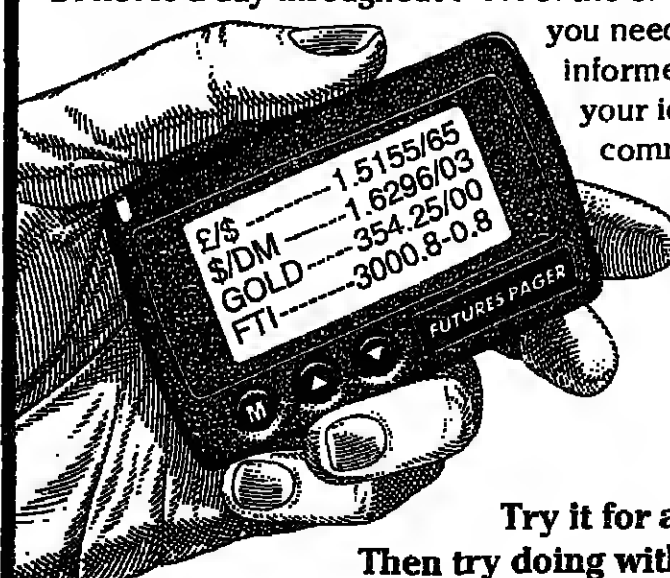
Vincent, it turned out, was prepared to take a much more robust approach. Most employees were presented with radically new terms of employment and ways of working at the end of 1992. As is the way in such affairs, there is some dispute over what happened next, but 340 of the 700 employees were made redundant in March, with three months' money, and are now claiming unfair dismissal. Mersey "does not consider the outcome of this litigation will have a material adverse effect". Medway now has 260 employees, supplemented by labour-only sub-contractors, including former dockers.

The £13 million cost of severance, provided in Medway's 1992 accounts, averages £3,340 per employee. That is less than a tenth of the cost of Mersey's severance scheme. Mersey avoided the flak and Mr Vincent is the prime beneficiary, receiving £12 million in cash and shares and a one-off bonus payment. That necessary de-manning surely accounts, at least in part, for the sudden rise in the value of Medway and its employees' shares. Sadly, although the cost was apportioned to 1992, the employees who lost their jobs and their shares did not receive any of the benefit.

RED ALERT

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FUTURES PAGER

IMF calls for new attack on Britain's public sector deficit

FROM JANET BUSH
IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN must take further action to tackle its public sector deficit, on top of measures announced in the last Budget, so as to ensure sustainable growth, according to the latest World Economic Outlook. The forecast, issued in Washington last night, predicts UK growth of 1.8 per cent this year, considerably above the 1.25 per cent that the March Budget assumed and also above the 1.6 per cent more recently predicted by John Major. The IMF estimated that the

structural part of Britain's deficit probably accounts for about 5 per cent of gross domestic product this year and that this deficit, coupled with the weak international environment, "poses significant risks to the outlook". Michael Mussa, director of the IMF Research Department, said that Britain should employ both tax increases and spending cuts to tackle the deficit. He also said that some industrialised countries, Britain included, should try to achieve budget surpluses in order to meet the future costs of an ageing population. The IMF forecast for the world

economy this year is unchanged overall from the 2.2 per cent growth it predicted in April. However, the Fund has revised down its view of growth in industrialised countries to only 1.1 per cent, from the 1.7 per cent estimated in April. The IMF's annual meeting this week takes place in the fourth year of what it has termed "sub-par growth performance of the world economy". It said yesterday that indications of stronger growth in 1994 are still only tentative. The IMF's latest forecast puts growth in the US at 2.7 per cent this year, and it now expects Japan

to show slightly negative growth of 0.1 per cent and the countries of the EC to contract by 0.2 per cent overall this year, with Germany dropping 2.2 per cent. Mr Mussa acknowledged that, in spite of the most recent downward revisions of estimates of world growth, there are significant risks that it could be even lower. Discussing the abandonment of narrow bands in the European exchange-rate mechanism at the start of August, the IMF argues for more adventurous use of the monetary flexibility inherent in wider bands. Although acknowledging a need to proceed relatively

cautiously to maintain confidence that policymakers have one eye on inflation, the Fund says: "As a matter of great urgency, economic policies must move to support durable recoveries without which reductions of unemployment and fiscal deficits will be impossible and economic convergence would be meaningless." The IMF argues that European countries should cut interest rates to secure recovery and should resist depreciations in their currencies, which, it said, would only be temporary. It also said that a general depreciation of European currencies against the US and

Japan should not be seen as negative. The interim committee of the IMF, which meets at the weekend, is expected to call on European nations to lower interest rates. The US sees no economic objection to some form of co-ordinated interest rate cuts in Europe, even independent of Germany. The IMF argues that easier monetary policy in Europe would have to be accompanied by action to rein in excessive budget deficits and to reform labour markets, expressing the fear that persistent unemployment will exacerbate what are already thought to be

growing demands for protectionism. It is predicted that unemployment may rise further throughout most of 1994, particularly in Europe. The immediate priority in tackling it is to secure a correct mix in macro-economic policy — generally tighter fiscal policy and looser monetary policy. The IMF also calls for structural reforms, many of which have resonance in current British debates, including adjusting eligibility for social security benefits and adjusting labour market regulations that hamper job searches, wage flexibility and employment creation.

New chairman sacks founder of Spring Ram

BY CARL MORTSHED

ROGER Regan, Spring Ram's new chairman, told the City yesterday the meteoric growth of the kitchens and bathrooms group was over as he revealed losses of £36 million for the six months to June 30.

Three board directors, including Bill Rooney, the company's chief executive and founder, Ron Fair and David Riley have been asked to resign without compensation. Only one main board director, Alan Bell, in charge of the profitable kitchens division, has survived Mr Regan's new broom. The clear-out is also extending to Arthur Andersen, the auditor, which is to be replaced by Price Waterhouse while BZW is taking over from Pannure Gordon as stockbroker adviser.

Mr Regan said the departing directors had service contracts of one to three years. A sum had been provided within a £6 million corporate reconstruction provision for claims, but Mr Regan does not believe any compensation will be requested by Mr Rooney. A consortium of institutional shareholders, including the Prudential, demanded management changes after a succession of profit warnings and accounting irregularities at a subsidiary. According to Mr Regan,

■ Departing Spring Ram directors had service contracts of between one and three years but they have been asked to resign without compensation. Auditors will also go.

management accounts available to Mr Rooney and his colleagues, showed a trading loss for the five-month period to May 29 with half of the group's businesses losing money and a large level of borrowings. In June, Spring Ram warned shareholders that profits for the first half of 1993 would be substantially lower than the previous year.

The interim losses include non-recurring charges of £30 million, including provisions against stock and doubtful debts as well as corporate reconstruction costs. Stripping out one-off costs, the underlying trading loss for the period is £4.8 million. Accounts for the previous year have been restated, reducing the 1992 interim profit from £18.4 million to £8.2 million after the introduction of more conservative accounting policies. These take full-year 1992 profit of £26 million down to a restated £21 million. Mr Regan said the restatement was designed to give shareholders absolute clarity. "We have ploughed this field very thoroughly and believe we have removed all

the skeletons." He blamed the deterioration in the company's fortunes on a failure to keep control of cash as the company accumulated a large number of small loss-making businesses. "Our review has revealed disturbing issues of management competence," he said. Two new businesses, Regency Decor and Artisan Tiles, which have absorbed £40 million of capital expenditure, continue to make losses. The cash outflow has sent gearing up to 39 per cent from almost nil in previous years.

Mr Regan held out the promise to shareholders of a progressive dividend policy when profits are restored and a drive for exports. "We can move to £60 million of exports in three years from £19 million today." No big redundancies or closures were planned, he said, as sales had risen from £89 million to £115 million and orders were at record levels. The company has appointed Rob Hassell as export director and Steve Brown as group development director.

Tempus, page 29



Sir Lawrie, at Barratt's Rotherhithe, London, development yesterday, predicted a slow but sustained recovery

Dividend doubled at buoyant Barratt

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

SHARES in Barratt Developments rose 7p to 179p on news that pre-tax profits at Sir Lawrie Barratt's housebuilder had risen to £20.4 million (£11.3 million) in the year to end-June and the total dividend is being doubled 4p (2p) via a 3p final.

However, the improvement was not at the operating level, at which profits fell 4 per cent

to £27.3 million, but through a lower interest bill. This, in turn, was due to what Frank Eaton, chief executive, called "the liquidation of assets not giving us a return". Conditions remained tough in the UK and the US, with 4,988 (4,706) completed sales. Barratt aims to increase this to 8,000 over three years. The American subsidiary in

southern California, which incurred an unchanged trading loss of £700,000, suffered a fall in completions from 541 to 354. Sir Lawrie, executive chairman, said the groundwork was in place on both sides of the Atlantic "for a slow but sustained recovery". He cited the fall in the ratio of house prices to incomes, now at its lowest since 1970, and mort-

gage interest rates at their lowest since 1968. Group debts are down from £205 million two years ago, when Barratt incurred a £106 million loss, to £43 million. Earnings rose from 7.9p to 9.3p a share. Sir Lawrie dismissed talk of a rights issue as unfounded speculation.

Tempus, page 29

City expects MGN sale details to be announced

BY MELVYN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

CITY institutions expect Mirror Group Newspapers' EGM, today, to be a curtain raiser for the £350 million-plus sale of the 54.8 per cent stake held by John Talbot, of accountants Arthur Andersen, the joint administrator of the late Robert Maxwell's web of private companies.

Mr Talbot confirmed last week that he was planning an offering of the stock, and appointing N M Rothschild, the merchant bank, and Cazenove, the stockbroker, to spearhead the sale. S G Warburg Securities, NatWest Securities and James Capel will add placing-power muscle. MGN shares shaded 1p to 177p yesterday, against a high of 186p after MGN reported mid-year pre-tax profits of £69.9 million (£15.3 million). Speculation that Rothschild has already embarked on a book building exercise — sounding out potential investors as to how much stock they may be prepared to buy and at what price — is premature, but a formal book building exercise is expected soon.

At current levels, the administrator's 54.8 per cent block is worth £385 million. Selling at 160p would raise £351.4 million but Rothschild and Cazenove are intent on selling at a minimal discount to the market. NatWest, Midland, Lloyds and Goldman Sachs have loans of £300 million secured on the stake.

Leaner Next fashions a 177% advance in profit

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

RECOVERY at Next shows no sign of slackening as the High Street fashion group posted a 177 per cent rise in profit, to beat analysts' expectations by a wide margin.

Pre-tax profits surged from £8.3 million to £23 million for the six months to July 31, boosted by a particularly strong performance from the Next retail stores.

Group turnover was up by 9.7 per cent from £212.6 million to £233.2 million, with the stores posting a 16.2 per cent rise in sales despite a small reduction in selling space.

Sales per square foot rose from £167 to £198, against the same period last year, and Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the chairman of Next, said he believed the figures could go even higher.

The process of rationalising under-performing stores continued, with a further 18 closures in the first half. Next now has 298 stores, compared with 425 just two years ago. However, the group expects to open between seven and ten outlets in the coming year, the first expansion for the group in three years. Lord Wolfson believes the chain is close to its maximum scale.

The group, of which David Jones is chief executive, opened its first store in Boston, Massachusetts, this month, but will not open further

outlets until its performance has been assessed. Start-up costs of £1.1 million have been written off in the interim accounts.

Closer links with the retail chain benefited Next Directory, where sales rose by 8.8 per cent. By carrying the same stock as the Next stores, the Directory also improved customer service levels and margins.

Club 24, the credit operation, again reduced its borrowings, this time from £53

million to £33 million, during the period. Although the group has net cash balances of £48 million, Lord Wolfson has no immediate plans to use the money. He said: "We should not be worrying about what to spend the cash on. We should concentrate on running our business. The only way to grow is by doing what we do better."

The price of shares in Next rose 4 1/2p to 208 1/2p.

Tempus, page 29



David Jones at one of a reduced number of Next stores

Sales rise at restaurants helps Pizza up to £1.4m

BY OUR CITY STAFF

PIZZAEXPRESS, the restaurant chain that came to the market earlier this year through a reverse takeover of Star Computer, saw its pre-tax profits rise from £19,000 to £1.4 million for the year to June 30.

The figure was boosted by four and a half months' contribution from the restaurant and distribution businesses. Sales were up by 8 per cent across the PizzaExpress chain, because of higher customer volumes and increased spend per head. Four new outlets were opened in the period and a further four are planned.

The group intends to reduce the number of franchise restaurants in favour of company-managed ones. The computer operations, which produced a "disappointing" performance, are to be sold, for £22 million, to DB1993, a company set up by David Blochman, a former director of PizzaExpress who resigned this week.

Due to the timing of the capital reconstruction outlined at the time of the PizzaExpress acquisition, no final dividend is proposed, but a first interim dividend, of 0.5p, for the year to June 30, 1994, has been brought forward for payment on November 19.

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CYPRUS
An island on its own.

Fleming rings for China trust funds

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

WITH a merchant banker's neat sense of timing, Robert Fleming is today calling for £60 million of investment funds to give birth to The Fleming Chinese Investment Trust. The trust's investment focus will be on the economic growth and investment opportunities associated with China.

Today is also the day the world will hear whether Peking, Manchester, Sydney, Istanbul or Berlin has been chosen to host the millennium Olympics, though Fleming insists that the timing is purely coincidental.

Lord Mark Fitzalan, Howard, chairman of Fleming Investment Trust Management, says China as a nation and China as an economy "has caught the

public's imagination". He adds that £45 million has been effectively subscribed to the closed-end fund, leaving £15 million to be raised via a placing and public offer at 100p, with warrants attached. The minimum investment is £1,500.

There are about 100 companies quoted on China's two stock exchanges, though the investment trust will be confined to holding the B shares that are issued by 30 of the 100 and which are reserved solely for foreigners. The trust will also invest in companies with a China-benefit that are quoted in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea, as well as non-Chinese companies, a material part of whose revenues and/or profits are derived from activities in or trading with the mainland. The growth in China's real GNP has averaged 9 per cent per annum

between 1978 and 1992. The local appetite for equities has grown dramatically since the Shanghai stock exchange was opened in 1990 and the Shenzhen exchange opened in 1991. Fleming has been managing investments in China since 1987, has a representative office in Shanghai, and was one of the first foreign securities firms to gain a seat on the two exchanges last year. The trust's board is full of old China hands, with Michael Miles, former chairman of Cathay Pacific Airways, chairman.

Another example of neat timing is that the offer opens today, closes on October 8 and dealings start on October 19 — straddling both China's National Day on October 1 and Taiwan's National Day (known to old Far East hands as Double Ten) on October 10.

Russia must find the political power to set its economy free

Anatole Kaletsky argues that Boris Yeltsin should concentrate on creating a state apparatus strong enough to deliver economic liberalisation

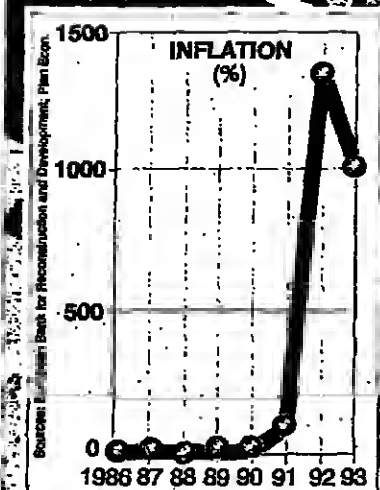
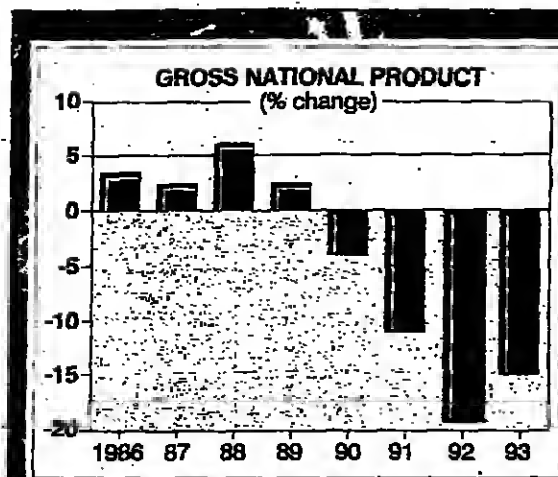
Karl Marx would be amused. As he noted in 1852, history often repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce. Two years ago, when communist hardliners attempted to repeat the 1917 revolution by ousting Mikhail Gorbachev, whom they saw as a latter-day Khrushchev, the outcome was indeed a tragedy. Even though the coup was quickly reversed and little blood was shed, it led to the uncontrolled disintegration of civil authority throughout the former Soviet Union.

This is a process whose tragic consequences are only gradually becoming apparent within Russia, even though on the fringes of former Soviet empire they have been fully played out. By contrast, the coup and counter-coup mounted on Tuesday night by Boris Yeltsin and his parliamentary opponents, had all the trappings of farce.

At present, the impeached President Yeltsin looks like the clear winner in his contest with the disbanded congress. But, contrary to the hopes expressed by Mr Yeltsin and his many well-wishers, it seems highly improbable that Russia will now be pulled out of its political and economic vortex and set on the road to democracy and market reform. Mr Yeltsin has seized power because the parliament was blocking his attempts to restructure the economy and prevent the country's anarchic political fragmentation. But will he be able to do any better, now that he holds all the reins of power?

Assuming that he does not intend to use his powers in a repressive or pyrrhic manner — and that seems a fair assumption, given Mr Yeltsin's long history of opposing communist violence — it seems all too likely that near-anarchy will continue in Russia until beyond the December elections. Mr Yeltsin's immediate problem is that local officials, bureaucrats and industrial managers, who were ignoring instructions from Moscow even before Tuesday, are likely to pay even less attention because of the doubt cast on the legitimacy of the president's power. When he outlawed the communist party in 1991, Mr Yeltsin effectively abolished the only properly functioning part of the Russian state apparatus. Now, by abolishing the congress, whose deputies were mostly industrial managers and local officials, he is severing one of the few remaining state links between Moscow and the far-flung regions of Russia, without having anything to put in its place.

But the main reason for scepticism about Mr Yeltsin's prospects is much longer-term and more fundamental. He and his advisers do not seem to understand the relationship between politics and economics in post-communist reform. The process of transition



RUSSIA'S ECONOMY FROM BAD TO WORSE

from communist dictatorship to capitalist democracy has been studied in dozens of reports by hundreds of leading economists and political scientists. But all seem to have missed one essential question. More precisely, they have failed to ask it publicly, for reasons of political correctness.

In making the transition from communist dictatorship to market democracy, should the economy be freed before or after the political system? To put it more starkly: is democracy always compatible with capitalism? In post-communist politics, this is the issue that dare not speak its name.

The fact is, however, that the "natural" linkage so often claimed between political and economic liberalism does not exist. There may be a strong tendency for capitalism to create educated workers who eventually demand political rights. There may also be a propensity for people voting freely in a democratic system gradually to learn respect for private property and settle on a capitalist system. But it is a big jump from this very long-term historical relationship to the commonly accepted conclusion that economic growth and political liberalisation go naturally hand in hand.

If anything, the recent experience of post-communist and Third World countries suggests the opposite conclusion: that democracy stands in the way

of economic development, especially in its early phases. With a few notable exceptions such as Chile and (recently) Argentina, one-party states like Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Mexico and Singapore have done better than more democratic countries like Venezuela, the Philippines and Brazil.

India is the Third World country which comes closest to having an established and functioning democracy. But it shows less sign of economic takeoff than any other country in Asia. China, by contrast, is today generally believed to be the fastest growing and most promising economy in the world, yet its political regime remains as repressive and undemocratic as it was in the reign of Chairman Mao.

It is China's experience that the peoples of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union must find more galling. Here is a country that has broken all the democratic rules, laid down by western leaders, and now enforced through formal political conditionality by institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank. Here is a country run by a clique of old men who still call themselves communists — a country which seems to operate a capitalist economy without having privatised state property, or formally abolished the communist system, or even disbanded its central planning agencies. Yet of all the ex-communist countries which have tried the market system, China has been the only genuine success so far.

The lesson to be drawn from China's successful economic reform and Russia's abject failure, is that Mr Gorbachev made a fatal mistake when he launched the political liberalisation known as *glasnost* before the economic reconstruction he called *perestroika*. Having made that mistake, Mr Gorbachev was probably doomed. But Mr Yeltsin then compounded the error by accelerating economic liberalisation instead of trying to rebuild the political foundations of the Russian state. Experience suggests that a properly functioning market economy can only be created by a strong government, working in a stable, or at least controlled, political framework.

This does not mean China is right to maintain repression, while liberalising the economy. Political freedom and human rights may well be more important — even to many Russians — than economic growth. Instead, the right conclusion is perhaps that economic liberalisation must proceed gradually, and radical reform must be avoided, until the political framework of the post-communist state is rebuilt. But Mr Yeltsin and his advisers are unlikely to show any such caution.

TEMPUS

Rent-a-Regret

JUST as Thorn EMI was nearing its goal of becoming a straightforward music and rental group, nasty allegations of usury and strong-arm repossession tactics at Rent-a-Center in America threaten to spoil such dreams. The lurid allegations are unlikely to damage the company's profitability to any great extent, but impending legislative action poses a far greater threat.

An imminent bill from the House of Representatives' banking and finance committee is expected to reclassify rent-to-buy transactions as finance, not rental. If it were passed it would severely limit Rent-a-Center's freedom over the charges on its goods. Since Rent-a-Center only makes operating margins of 13 per cent despite charging effective interest rates of up to 200 per cent, the whole business would have to be reconfigured

simply to stay open. Even if the worst happened and Thorn was forced to close Rent-a-Center or sell it for a pittance, the effect on the group would be unpleasant rather than catastrophic. Rent-a-Center made operating profits of about £50 million in the year to March, 13 per cent of the group total. Virgin music, in comparison, should make £80 million this year.

Lingering doubts about Rent-a-Center's future would, for the duration, prevent the group from demerging its music and rental interests, if that is Sir Colin Southgate's ultimate intention. But any plans along those lines will have been pushed onto a back burner after Thorn's failure to sell its defence electronic business to GEC. For one reason or another, Thorn is forever postponing its arrival in the promised land.

Spring Ram

A FEW Spring Ram watchers may view the departure of its ebullient chief executive with sadness. Markets enjoy shooting stars and yesterday's frank belt and braces review of the kitchen and bathroom group's accounts indicates that shareholders are in for a less exciting but more reassuring ride.

More disturbing than the well-trailed interim losses was the revelation that management accounts for the first five months of the year show losses at the trading level and rising debt, the previous management, in its June trading statement, referred only to lower profits.

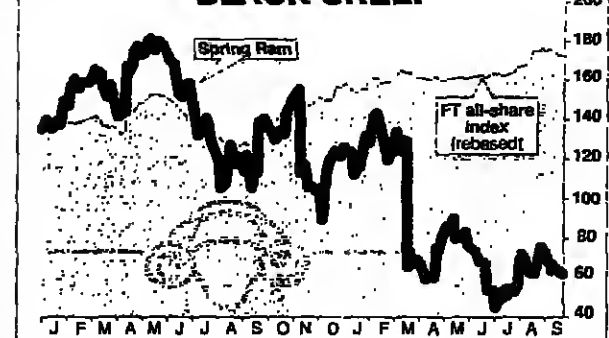
Spring Ram's shareholders will want more than cleaner accounts. The sudden fall in profits in the kitchens business is disturbing and the increase in borrowing

points to a loss of control on working capital.

Bill Rooney allowed the group to expand in too many directions while at the same time making significant changes in the core kitchens division. As the new team makes a push for export growth, it would do well to dispose of the smaller unprofitable businesses.

The continuing attentions of Masco, albeit at a low level, suggest the group may be spruced up for an eventual sale. To achieve a satisfactory exit for most shareholders, the new management will probably need to triple the current share price. In the meantime, the promise of future dividends is a nutmeg of consolation.

BLACK SHEEP



Next

THERE seems to be no stopping the recovery at Next. After a strong rise in turnover last year, the group still managed to report a double digit leap in sales this time. This sales growth has been critical for the chain to cover the high fixed costs of retailing. Sales per square foot have risen steadily as the group has improved the product and brought prices down to more realistic levels.

In the short term, further growth should come from the new planned store openings combined with the rising density of sales. Together, these could increase Next's share of the clothing market from 2 per cent to nearer 3 per cent. Then, growth will have to come from somewhere else.

Unfortunately, Lord Wolfson has a relaxed attitude to takeovers. While his concentration on the core business is laudable, the group has net cash of £48 million which should be put to better uses given current low interest rates. Comparisons with GUS, where Lord Wolfson is also a director,

come to mind. While the short-term is secure, Next's long-term prospects are hazy.

Barratt

SIR Lawrie Barratt can be forgiven the triumphal overtones in the statement on his group's annual figures. Barratt Developments has emerged from the recession in better shape than many rivals. The cornerstone was its swift decision to cut its dividend at the beginning of 1990 when the full extent of the downturn in housing became clear. This and subsequent cuts saved the group more than £63 million over the past four years, as much as £80 million in all. If Barratt had tried to tough the recession out, like some competitors, its gearing would be 60 per cent today instead of 18 per cent. It would not have the resources to expand into the recovery without an unwelcome rights issue.

In contrast to his pleasure over Barratt's recent achievements, Sir Lawrie's optimism about the housing market strikes an uneasy note. Barratt wants to increase output by 60 per cent in the next two

years to 8,000 units. This is understandable given the group's renewed vigour, but competitors like Wimpey and Tarmac are also planning to expand with the proceeds of their rights issues. This is fuelling land prices while house prices are still weak and demand patchy. Unless recovery in the market accelerates, housebuilders' margins could stay under pressure.

Vodafone

WITH price cuts, blanket advertising and even incentive schemes, the mobile phone business is beginning to resemble a competitive market. Vodafone could not undercut Mercury's offer of free off-peak local calls, but offers a new 3p a minute "home cell" rate on the MetroDigital service. This and other initiatives may protect its market but only at the expense of operating margins. Vodafone's shares have dropped 14 per cent since the end of August. Anxiety may rise as Mercury expands its service nationwide and the future of Hutchison Microtel service is resolved. The shares and the sector have further to fall.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

IoD starts hunting early

THE hunt is on for a man or woman to succeed Peter Morgan as director-general of the Institute of Directors, the worthy mouthpiece of UK company chiefs. The five-year contract, from mid-1994, is open to "visionary" leaders and motivators with excellent communication skills who have made a name for themselves in top boardrooms. There is clearly no shortage of candidates for the job of representing the IoD's 50,000 members, though the "communication" part of the brief may throw a few riders at the first jump. Peter Rawlings, who resigned as chief executive of the Stock Exchange this year over the Taurus debacle, may be dwelling upon his chances from his leafy home in Wimbledon, southwest London. And there is always Sarah Hogg, head of the No 10 policy unit.

Prickly Peter

THE peripatetic Peter Bates, sales and marketing director of the Savoy Hotel group for the past five years, is off again. He is joining Robert Peel's Mount Charlotte Investments hotel group to spearhead marketing activities — making him obliquely answerable to the 70 Brierley Investments, the 70 per cent shareholder. Bates, who has spent time at Glen Eagles, the Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong, and other five-star haunts, is dropping a star to focus on the Thistle chain, but insists his pride remains intact. "We do not need any more 3-star hotels," he blus-

ters. "Mount Charlotte is opening a Thistle hotel almost every month for the next three years. It's all very exciting."

Careless UBS

LAST week, UBS lost its head of equity sales. Now, the head of trading has gone too. Steve Dalby, managing director, trading, since 1986, resigned yesterday, following in the footsteps of Nick Bannister, now head of UK equities at Hoare Govett, and leaving a big gap in the higher UBS ranks. The Swiss have counter-attacked by recruiting David Goldmuntz of Salomon Brothers as combined head of sales and trading. Goldmuntz, an American fluent in French, joins in November after 14 years at Salomon. Dalby's plans are unclear.

Signing off

THE BBC business news team, under Peter Jay, is scattering to the four winds. Gerry

Baker, economics correspondent, is to be the *Financial Times* Tokyo correspondent. Iain Carson is joining the *Economist* as industry editor. Ed Crooks is going to *Newsnight*, and three radio reporters, Jonty Blum, Chris Goddard and Rick Marsland — are heading for the door.

China cab

CAPTAINS of industry gathered at the Dorchester hotel on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the Wolpe Committee, set up last year to promote the UK's reputation for excellence in quality goods and services. As they left, they were given a fitting symbol of the occasion — a Corgi model London taxi cab. The label read: "Made in China".

Klein-ing up

TRUST Robin Klein, South African-born chief executive of Klein-e-zee, to dream up the ideal tool for visitors to his old homeland. Klein was asked by WoolTru, the SA retail chain, to produce a tailor-made version of his popular electronic language translator, converting English into Afrikaans, Zulu or Xhosa. In keeping with these changing times, words like "power", "peace" and "freedom" are all available for translation. Anyone looking up "terror", "riot" and "teargas" will have less luck.

Pubs in Sydney are staying open 24 hours today to allow locals to monitor the Olympic bid result in suitable style. The result is due at about 2am local time on Friday morning.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Final salary pensions are still popular

From the Director of Information Services, The National Association of Pension Funds Sir, There is more than one definition of wealth and Graham Searjeant in his article "Wheels start to fall off the pension bandwagon", September 8, is not alone in wanting to define it in a way which excludes pension rights.

If you have enough wealth as he defines it, then you don't need a pension scheme with your job but then you don't need a job, either. Few people are in that happy position.

Most of us have to work for a living. We also need something to replace the income from work when we retire and the role of the state here is declining.

One great advantage of a company pension scheme is that it will ensure that your income in retirement lasts as long as you do. It will also make provision for your dependants if they survive you.

Certainly, patterns of employment are changing and pension schemes are changing to reflect that. In pension circles, there is much debate about the relative merits of the money purchase approach and the final salary approach and some employers operate various forms of hybrid scheme in order to meet the differing needs of different people.

Nevertheless, the distinction between money purchase schemes and final salary schemes remains an important one.

In a final salary scheme, what the members are entitled to is the benefit laid down in the rules. It is only in a money purchase scheme that members are entitled to whatever pension can be bought by their share of the assets. It is a pity that in his treatment of surplus, Graham Searjeant fails

to make this all important distinction.

The reference to "extreme tax incentives" was not explained — perhaps because it cannot be justified. Where pensions are concerned, tax is not fully relieved, it is merely deferred until the pension is paid.

In some ways life itself is becoming more of a lottery and the future is not easy to predict. Final salary pension schemes, however, are much less of a lottery now that steps have been taken to protect early leavers by giving them rights to preserved pensions, revaluation on those preserved pensions and the right to take their pension with them when they change jobs.

Such schemes provide greater certainty in the face of fluctuating asset values and falling interest rates and that is one reason why they are so popular with members.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE BROWN,
The National Association of Pension Funds,
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.

No Xtra saving

From Dr Valerie Goldberg Sir, The Halifax Building Society points out that inflation has fallen to 1.7 per cent so that the real return from the Halifax 90-day Xtra Account is better than previously. However, the underlying rate of inflation, which excludes mortgage repayments, is 3.1 per cent, so savers who do not have mortgages are near a negative rate of return on this particular account.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE GOLDBERG,
6 Hollycroft Avenue,
Wembley,
Middlesex.

The way to work

From Susan Watkins Sir, Martin Morton prefers not to employ staff who travel to work by train (Business Letters, September 15). The other side of the coin is the travel imposed on workers by compulsory job relocation.

I have always tried to live within walking distance of where I work. My place of work (with the same company) has changed four times in the past eight years — Lincoln, Huntingdon, Oundle, and now a village near Cambridge. I now have a house in Lincoln within walking distance of workplace number 1, and a flat within walking distance of workplace numbers 2 and 4, but 18 miles from my current workplace. I need to catch at least three trains to get from Lincoln to Huntingdon and then catch company-provided transport from Huntingdon to my present workplace.

It is a cumbersome journey subject to the vagaries of British Rail (the excuse for the delay on Monday sounded like "wheel spin in the engine") and the hazards of the A604 (such as long hold-ups caused on Tuesday by scaffolding falling off a lorry).

I would much prefer not to commute and look forward to the day when I can work from home or in a "teleoffice".

Meanwhile, I find it ironic that my flat and present workplace are both next to old stations on the same, long-disused, railway line. Yours faithfully,
SUSAN WATKIN,
B19 Riverside Mill,
Godmanchester,
Cambridgeshire.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

ATTRACTIVE PERKS FOR SHAREHOLDERS

Many UK quoted companies shares are worth buying just for the very worthwhile discounts available for their shareholders.

If you also believe now is the time for Equity Investment this is an irresistible deal.

- Over 80 companies to choose from
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We have a concise guide to the discounts and perks available from certain U.K. quoted companies selling normally at £1.99.

Hargreaves Lansdown (regd) Asset Management Ltd
Embassy House, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1SE.

I enclose £1.00 for the Shareholders Guide or £5.00 for the Shareholders pack.

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) (BLOCK CAPITALS)
Address
County Postcode T723-9

Tel: 0272-767-767

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible][illegible]

PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST
 48 Hart Street, Hoveley on Thames, Kent TN11 9JH
 Acheson Stockwell Wills 01893 47000
 Income 20.00 20.00 ... 0.72 0.72
 Equity 254.00 270.70 ... 0.76 0.76
 Inflation 20.00 20.00 ... 1.20 1.23
 Inflation 60.00 60.00 ... 0.20 0.20
 UK Govt 72.00 72.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 UK Income 81.00 81.00 ... 0.35 0.34
 41 Unit 500 AC 84.00 84.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 New Europe AC 65.00 65.00 ... 0.45 0.45

PROFILING UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
 Wolfenden Lane, 21 Watlington, London E2 9JH
 ECOM Ltd. Dealings 0800 329443
 International 18.00 18.00 ... 0.40 0.40
 Inflation 114.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 Global 116.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 For Cash 30.00 30.00 ... 1.00 0.00
 Global Inc. 32.00 30.00 ... 0.40 0.40

PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT
 100 Victoria Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JH
 MIRA Ltd. 0627 67455
 Emerging Index 91.00 94.00 ... 0.40 0.30
 Growth 71.00 72.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 Inflation 60.00 60.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 International 92.00 94.00 ... 0.40 0.30
 UK Govt 27.00 28.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 Global 30.00 30.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 Income 60.00 60.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 Global 60.00 60.00 ... 0.30 0.30
 UK Govt 27.00 28.00 ... 0.30 0.30

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUST LTD
 51/59 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF
 0800 400 000
 International 18.00 18.00 ... 0.40 0.40
 Inflation 114.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 Global 116.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 For Cash 30.00 30.00 ... 1.00 0.00
 Global Inc. 32.00 30.00 ... 0.40 0.40

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP
 100 Victoria Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JH
 Dealings 0800 329443
 International 18.00 18.00 ... 0.40 0.40
 Inflation 114.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 Global 116.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 For Cash 30.00 30.00 ... 1.00 0.00
 Global Inc. 32.00 30.00 ... 0.40 0.40

SCOTCH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
 100 Victoria Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JH
 Dealings 0800 329443
 International 18.00 18.00 ... 0.40 0.40
 Inflation 114.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 Global 116.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 For Cash 30.00 30.00 ... 1.00 0.00
 Global Inc. 32.00 30.00 ... 0.40 0.40

SCOTCH LIFE INVESTMENTS
 100 Victoria Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JH
 Dealings 0800 329443
 International 18.00 18.00 ... 0.40 0.40
 Inflation 114.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 Global 116.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
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 International 18.00 18.00 ... 0.40 0.40
 Inflation 114.00 120.00 ... 0.30 0.32
 Global 116.00 12

| FT-SE VOLUMES | | | | MAJOR STOCKS | | | |
|---------------|--------|------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| ASDA Gp | 13,000 | Qashury | 1,900 | MEPC | 399 | Steel & New | 1,100 |
| Alloy-Ltd | 1,000 | Carlson C | 410 | Marks Sp | 3,600 | Steel Power | 1,300 |
| Abbey Natl | 2,900 | Coast Visa | 7,500 | NIK | 600 | Seans | 7,500 |
| Anglian W | 1,000 | Coast Visa | 7,500 | Marlin Bk | 719 | Systent | 2,000 |
| Anglyl Gp | 5,500 | Construals | 863 | Nat Power | 1,000 | Steel Trans | 3,000 |
| Argy Wigen | 3,200 | Emerts Off | 2,500 | Nu Wht W | 1,000 | Slebe | 2,400 |
| AB Foods | 963 | Forst | 2,500 | Nurnm Fds | 3,600 | Stnkl Bst | 3,600 |
| BAA | 9,000 | GUS A | 377 | P & O | 858 | Stnkl Wstg | 2,100 |
| BAT Inds | 1,000 | GUS A | 377 | Pearson | 1,100 | Std Chardt | 1,100 |
| BOC | 1,000 | Gen Acc | 419 | Power Gen | 1,500 | Sun Alnce | 2,100 |
| BP | 2,000 | Gen Elec | 3,300 | Prudential | 4,500 | TI Gp | 696 |
| BT | 1,000 | Gilco | 1,000 | Rac | 611 | FTN | 378 |
| BTR | 3,300 | Granada | 776 | RTZ | 1,700 | Tesco | 6,300 |
| Bk of Scot | 3,200 | Grand Wm | 6,900 | Rank Org | 474 | Thames W | 1,000 |
| Barclays | 2,500 | Grimes | 3,300 | Racine Clr | 830 | Thorn EMI | 3,300 |
| Bentley | 1,000 | Hisco | 7,300 | Rolland | 774 | Trafford | 7,700 |
| Ble Circle | 2,000 | HSBC | 8,400 | Reid Ltd | 1,300 | Unilever | 2,900 |
| Bons | 2,400 | ICL | 1,200 | Renelink | 689 | Unibac | 695 |
| Borg | 1,000 | Imperial | 1,500 | Reps | 1,500 | Wadsworth | 1,500 |
| Brit Aero | 1,900 | Kinshelton | 2,600 | Rolls Royce | 800 | Warburg SICG | 62 |
| Brit Airways | 5,700 | Ladbrooke | 4,100 | Rotmans | 315 | Wellcome | 3,600 |
| Brit Gas | 5,700 | Land Sec | 1,000 | Roy Ins | 2,500 | Whitb'd A | 1,400 |
| Brit Natl | 2,000 | Lloyds | 2,700 | Sainsbury | 6,400 | Wolsey | 233 |
| Burnham CRT | 257 | M&N Card | 1,100 | Schroders | 875 | Zeneca | 2,500 |
| Cable Wht | 3,600 | | | | | | |

[illegible]

| MONEY MARKETS | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Exchange index compared with 1983 was down at 80.7 (day's range 80.5-80.7). | | | | | |
| STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES | | | | | |
| Mkt Rates for Sept 22 | Range | Close | 1 month | 3 month | |
| Amsterdam..... | 2.7659-2.7705 | 2.7752-2.7760 | par-1d | 1d-3d | |
| Brussels..... | 35.45-37.89 | 32.04-32.84 | 1d-20d | 3d-44d | |
| Copenhagen..... | 10.0480-10.1020 | 10.0480-10.0700 | 1d-10d | 1d-10d | |
| Dublin..... | 1.0592-1.0621 | 1.0592-1.0609 | 1d-15d | 2d-33d | |
| Frankfurt..... | 2.4076-2.4088 | 2.4076-2.4078 | 1d-10d | 1d-10d | |
| Lisbon..... | 263.90-264.30 | 263.92-264.30 | 69-130d | 277-390d | |
| Madrid..... | 197.96-199.12 | 198.66-199.12 | 68-91d | 216-272d | |
| Milan..... | 2393.80-2413.00 | 2393.80-2396.50 | 1d-15d | 1d-15d | |
| Montreal..... | 1.5153-1.5159 | 1.5152-1.5157 | 0.30-0.21 pr | 0.53-0.30 pr | |
| New York..... | 1.5153-1.5159 | 1.5152-1.5157 | 0.37-0.30 pr | 1.06-1.06 pr | |
| Oslo..... | 10.7440-10.8300 | 10.7440-10.7820 | 1d-15d | 1d-15d | |
| Paris..... | 1.5750-1.6230 | 1.5750-1.6230 | 1d-15d | 2d-33d | |
| Stockholm..... | 12.9760-12.9780 | 12.9760-12.9770 | 1d-15d | 1d-15d | |
| Tokyo..... | 160.69-161.70 | 161.43-161.70 | 1d-15pr | 1d-15pr | |
| Vienna..... | 17.24-17.44 | 17.26-17.44 | 1d-15pr | 2d-33d | |
| Zurich..... | 2.1432-2.1546 | 2.1432-2.1546 | 1d-15pr | 1d-15pr | |
| Source: Exel | | | Premium - pr, Discount - ds | | |
| ONLY STERLING | | | | | |
| Argentina peso..... | 1.5164-1.5162 | | | | |
| Australia dollar..... | 1.5165-1.5167 | | | | |
| DOLLAR SPOT RATES | | | | | |
| Argentina..... | 1.5752-1.5764 | | | | |

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

IRI REPORT: As expected the Russian reaction to the world commodity market has been muted. Russia's economy eroded by midday with many traders nonchalant about the situation having lived through several previous disaster scenarios. While it is true that Yeltsin's move could have a catastrophic consequence, it also could unfold very smoothly, therefore this is a wait and see situation.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

| | | | |
|-----|---------|--------|---------|
| Sep | 900-890 | Dec | 974-972 |
| Nov | 927-924 | Mar | 974-972 |
| Mar | 954-955 | May | 997 BLD |
| May | 946-942 | Jul | 997 BLD |
| Jul | 972-968 | Volume | 20256 |

ROBUSTA COFFEE (¢)

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Sep | 1322-1320 | May | 1240-1240 |
| Nov | 1246-1247 | Jul | 1238 BLD |
| Mar | 1232-1235 | Aug | 1238 BLD |
| May | 1247 BLD | Volume | 5170 |

RAW SUGAR (POB)

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------|-----|
| Dec | uno | Dec | uno |
| Spot: unq | Dec | Aug | uno |
| Aug | 27N | Aug | uno |
| Aug | uno | Volume | 0 |

WHITE SUGAR (¢)

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Readers | 283-5.15 | Oct | 270-97.4 |
| Spot: 285.5 | Oct | 270-97.4 | |
| Dec | 278-97.16 | Dec | 278-97.16 |
| Nov | 278-97.1 | Mar | 278-97.1 |
| May | 278-97.1 | Volume | 1272 |

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average futures prices at representative markets on September 25

| Cat (lb) | Pig | Sheep | Cattle |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Oct/Nov | 64.40 | 42.51 | 117.84 |
| Nov/Dec | -0.11 | -0.22 | -0.04 |
| Dec/Jan | -0.40 | -0.36 | 116.75 |
| Jan/Feb | -0.28 | -0.39 | -1.14 |
| Feb/Mar | -5.2 | -10.1 | -31.3 |
| Mar/Apr | -67.09 | 0.31 | 121.35 |
| Apr/May | -71.71 | -82.83 | -1.89 |
| May | -3.8 | -29 | -18.2 |

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Liv Pig (kg)

| | | | |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| Open | Close | Open | Close |
| May | uno | May | uno |
| May | uno | Volume | 0 |

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (closes £/q)

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Sep | 102.40 |
| Nov | 104.30 |
| Mar | 106.25 |
| May | 108.85 |
| Volume | 307 |

BARLEY (closes £/q)

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Sep | 101.00 |
| Nov | 102.50 |
| Mar | 104.65 |
| May | 106.60 |
| May | 108.60 |
| Volume | 1 |

HI-PRO SOYA (closes £/q)

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| Aug | Oct | 109.40 |
| Oct | 109.40 | |
| Dec | 109.40 | |
| Feb | 109.40 | |
| Apr | 109.40 | |
| Volume | 0 | |

POTATO

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|--------|
| (£/q) | Open | Close | Settle |
| Nov | 85.0 | 85.0 | 72.5 |
| Dec | 85.0 | 85.0 | 64.0 |
| May | 85.0 | 85.0 | 86.0 |
| May | 85.0 | 85.0 | 86.0 |

RUBBER

No 1 RSS (¢/kg)

| | |
|-----|-------------|
| Oct | 30.20-36.75 |
|-----|-------------|

(offshore) (Volume per day)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Copper Grade A (strapped) | 1170-1170 |
| Lead (strapped) | 3650-3650 |
| Spot Zinc H1 (offshore) | 99.00-99.00 |
| Tin (strapped) | 4357-4360 |
| Aluminum H1 (¢/kg @ 10000) | 1110-1110 |
| Nickel (strapped) | 4770-4770 |

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): Concerns about the political situation in Russia started to fade as oil prices did likewise.

CRUDE OILS (¢/barrel FOB)

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Brent Physical | 15.96 | -0.25 |
| Brent 15 days (OCS) | 16.00 | -0.25 |
| Brent 15 days (OCS) | 16.35 | -0.25 |
| WTI Intermediate (Nov) | 17.05 | -0.25 |
| WTI Intermediate (Dec) | 17.50 | -0.25 |

Spot CIF NW Coast (group delivery)

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Crude Oil Class 15 | 187 (+1) | Other: 183 (+1) |
| Gasoline | 181 (+1) | |
| Non EEC H1 Oct | 171 | |
| Non EEC H1 Nov | 171 | |
| 35 Fuel Oil | 99 (+1) | |
| Naphtha | 130 (+1) | |

IPCE FUTURES

GNI Ltd

||
||
||

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Brazil cruzeiro | 174,621-175.96 | Canada | 1.3105-1.3200 |
| Greece pound | 0.74745-0.757 | France | 6.6648-6.6543 |
| Finland marka | 0.0487-0.0483 | Germany | 5.6005-5.6055 |
| Greece drachma | 351.75-353.75 | Germany | 1.6393-1.6392 |
| Hong Kong dollar | 7.75-7.75 | Hong Kong | 7.7563-7.7573 |
| India rupee | 47.00-47.00 | Ireland | 4.8253-4.828 |
| Kuwait dinar K.O. | 0.4485-0.4485 | Italy | 1577.0-1578.0 |
| Malaysia ringgit | 2.8565-2.8607 | Japan | 160.40-160.47 |
| Mexico peso | 4.62-4.75 | New Zealand | 5.2500-5.2500 |
| Saudi Arabian riyal | 2.0721-2.1324 | Netherlands | 1.8223-1.8328 |
| Singapore dollar | 5.642-5.75 | Norway | 1.1183-1.123 |
| S.Africa rand (fin.) | 7.026-7.0279 | Portugal | 156.50-156.58 |
| S.Africa rand (com.) | 7.0262-7.0267 | Singapore | 1.5932-1.5942 |
| U.A.E. dirham | 5.4925-5.4935 | Spain | 120.90-121.00 |
| Swedish Bank GTS | 1.4215-1.4225 | Sweden | 8.7222-8.7232 |
| Swiss Bank GTS | 1.4215-1.4225 | Switzerland | 1.4215-1.4225 |

Swiss Bank GTS = Lloyd's Bank

MONEY MARKET

Base Rate: Clearing Rates 6 Finance Rate 6
Discount Market Loans Overnight 15%
Treasury Bills (Dist-buy: 2 mth 5%, 3 mth 5%, 6 mth 5%, 12 mth 5%)
Low 5%
Week fixed 5%
2 mth 5%, 3 mth 5%, 6 mth 5%, 12 mth 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Dist-buy: 2 mth 5%, 3 mth 5%, 6 mth 5%, 12 mth 5%)
Selling Money Rates: 5%
Interbank: 5%
Overnight: open 5%, close 6%

Local Authority Depos: 5%
Sterling CDs: 5%
Dollar CDs: 3.00-3.05
Fixed Rate Society CDs: 5%
5%
5%
3.11-3.08
3.20-3.32
3.40-3.43
5%
5%
5%

BGDB: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up date: August 31, 1993
Agreed retail Sept 26, 1993 or Oct 25, 1993 Scheme III: 7.15%
Reference rate July 31, 1993 to August 31, 1993 Scheme IV or V: 5.85%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Currency | 1 day | 1 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | Call |
| Dollar: | 3 1/2% | 3 1/2% | 3 1/2% | 3 1/2% | 3 1/2% |
| Deutschmark: | 7 1/4% | 6 3/4% | 6 3/4% | 6 3/4% | 7 1/4% |
| Swiss Franc: | 4 1/4% | 4 1/4% | 4 1/4% | 4 1/4% | 4 1/4% |
| Yen: | 2 1/2% | 2 1/2% | 2 1/2% | 2 1/2% | 2 1/2% |

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open \$359.00-359.40 Close: \$354.00-354.50 High: \$362.25-362.75
Low: \$351.00-351.50 Kruggerand: \$253.00-253.50 \$252.00-254.00
Sovereign: Gold \$81.00-84.00 (\$52.50-55.00) New \$81.00-84.00 (\$52.50-55.00)
Platinum: \$361.00 (\$238.00) Silver: \$4.08 (\$2.67) Palladium: \$123.00 (\$81.10)

[illegible]

ACA CAREERS EVENING

FINANCIAL SERVICES



Harrison Willis has great pleasure in inviting all qualified ACAs (including Finalists) with up to three years post qualification experience to attend an informal Careers Evening at the Barbican on Thursday 30th September 6.00 - 9.00pm Drinks & Buffet. Entrance by invitation only. For full details and to reserve a place ring Jenny Ogden, Simon Clarke or Jonathan Astbury on 071-629 4463. Evenings & weekends ring 081-769 1969 or 071-702 9672

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ACCOUNTANCY

Disillusioned newly qualified may desert public practice

By EDWARD FENNELL

TO GO or to stay. That is the question facing hundreds of newly qualified chartered accountants. The publication last week of the professional examination results from the ICAEW may have triggered the start of a mass exodus from public practice and particularly from the large firms. The scale of the movement will not be evident for some time, but firms and recruitment agents believe that the exits may be jammed.

"Having advertised last Saturday in the aftermath of the results, we had received 140 applications by Monday morning," said one recruitment agent. "The numbers look set to grow very big."

Trying to hold the line within the firms will be a thin rearguard of human resource managers and partners who seem to be left with too little to offer at this stage in the game. Ed Smith, of Coopers & Lybrand, said: "We're working hard to stop the explosion, but in the case of some of the newly qualified, it may already be too late. I'm afraid we deserve a bit of what we're going to get."

The revolt against what is seen by some young accountants as the tedium of audit has not helped to retain ambitious and lively staff. However, firms that have been forced back into their core business often have little else to offer the newly qualified as an incentive to stay.

"There is a danger that we could be forced into a rule-book approach to auditing which would be very dull," one human resource director said. Coopers' Ed Smith responds: "We should aim to go for a wider definition of our services so that individuals will have to develop a greater depth of skills and a wider understanding of business and management issues. To get to that point, however, will

need a big investment in education and training."

To try to generate this new momentum, Coopers, for one, is trying to create more interesting opportunities for its newly qualified, whether in the shape of high-quality secondment programmes, overseas attachments or other specialist training. "It is also time we spent more time addressing personal aspirations," Mr Smith said.

It may, however, be far too late for many of the firms to change attitudes. This generation of newly qualified accountants has seen at first hand the way the firms conduct themselves and, most notably, the way older colleagues were being shown the door. Having entered the profession because they regarded it, in part, as a hedge against unemployment, this revelation has come as a severe shock. As a result, many of the newly qualified are now seeking what they

regard as a safer alternative working for clients in industry or commerce.

"There is a perception that accountants in business are safer because they will always be the last to go," Richard Parnell said. "Many of the firms are trying to convince their newly qualified that they will be secure, but not many people are reassured by that."

The irony is that these promises may well be correct. Having run down their staffing levels and got rid of weaker performers, the firms would probably stick by those still in place.

Unfortunately for them, the attractions of the outside world may be too strong to resist for too many young accountants. There has recently been an upturn in opportunities in banking and financial services that will attract some of the brightest and best candidates from among the



Parnell: "Surplus of young qualified accountants has gone"



Smith: "We're working hard to stop the explosion"

rank of the recently qualified. That, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. Whether or not we are climbing out of recession, there are clear signs that employers in many sectors now feel that the time has come to start filling the gaps in their finance and accounting teams.

"There are some very attractive openings right now with blue chip multinational companies who want to recruit for their internal audit teams," Gerald Evans, of Douglas Lambias, said. "If you have recently qualified and you speak German or Spanish, you are likely to have no difficulties in finding an attractive job."

Even more locally in the City, plenty of opportunities are arising. Mr Evans warns the big firms: "I detect a huge pent-up feeling amongst trainees and the newly qualified, and I am sure they will seize the opportunity to get out."

The owners are not good. On the same day,

will never take strong action against the corporate community. Finance directors will, however, only agree controls if they see that they will be hurt in the markets if they do not.

In a sense their complaints that the rules were haphazard through being promulgated by different accounting bodies and that there was no cohesion in the resulting guidance were completely bogus.

As one senior accountant put it last week: "Finance directors will listen to analysts, the market, financial institutions or government departments. The people they never listen to are their suppliers, like us auditors."

If there has been a political mistake in implementing the Cadbury report it has been to rely on everyone's shell-shocked mid-recession goodwill and not to ensure that the rules were being prepared by people to whom finance directors traditionally listen rather than ignore.

Putting the wrapper back on Cadbury

THERE was always going to be a danger that the great bandwagon powering the Cadbury reforms in corporate governance would break down long before it reached its destination. To judge by last week's events, it looks as though the breakdown, or at least a slowing to a halt amid the grinding of gears and the sounds of an axle going askew, is happening.

Naturally enough, it is not happening in the most obvious or blatant of ways. But there is every sign that those who were to be reformed have gained the upper hand and the reforms will cease.

On the surface, everything looks fine. The two key sections of the Cadbury report on financial aspects of corporate governance, which were expected to prove tricky and to require lengthier preparation and consultation, are now under the wing of the Financial Reporting Council rather than out among other sections of the accounting profession's rule-making machinery.

The 100 Group of finance directors is happy that it has achieved that objective. The finance directors are also happy that everything has now been delayed by a further year. Ostensibly, this extra year is in fine-tune and clarify the suggested guidelines. But that is not what finance directors really want.

They know that if only they can hold on for a little while longer, the upturn may save them. Once we are back to expansion, the argument runs, then it will be much easier to rework all the old 1980s arguments about rules simply hampering growth, exacerbating unemployment and harming the wealth-creation process. Then, with fashion starting to run the other way, finance directors will be able to suggest that logically there is no need for new rules. What is needed is good guidance, they will argue, because everyone wants a better and more just corporate environment. They will see no need for the guidelines to become rules that could be checked and enforced.

For instance, they will tell us, tiresome audit checks on internal control systems are simply adding to the greatest cliché of all, the burdens on business.

At present, this agenda is being kept in the wings. But the accounting firms are clearly worried.

Michael Fowle, the head of audit at KPMG Peat Marwick, issued a statement last week saying the firm was "firmly convinced that businesses will strongly benefit from addressing the issue of internal controls". He said: "This should be regarded not merely as yet another compliance burden, but as a positive opportunity to seek improvements in business efficiency and to better inform a company's shareholders and stakeholders."

The owners are not good. On the same day,

will never take strong action against the corporate community. Finance directors will, however, only agree controls if they see that they will be hurt in the markets if they do not.

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ROBERT BRUCE

The profession can play a vital role in ensuring that money intended for the needy reaches its target

On the alert to stop charity scandals

By ALEC REED

ACCOUNTANTS have a unique and invaluable role within a charity. They should be the oasis of sanity that contends with the over-enthusiasm of the do-gooding element on the one hand, and with the whacky "pie in the face" fund-raising brigade on the other. To this mix could be added the academic dismissal of anything that looks like accountability. This is why the charity sector offers accountants an opportunity to achieve their finest hour.

People who work for charities come from incredibly diverse backgrounds, to some extent determined by the function of their particular charity, but also because charities seem to offer fulfilment for people who have tried a multitude of other work.

The great asset that accountants in charities represent is that they are more or less a homogeneous group with fairly common standards. Between them they could build a bedrock of standards recognised throughout the sector. A charity's service credentials could be said to be its accounts. Donor, recipient and government should concentrate on the efficiency with which a charity raises funds and dispenses services. Charities must also measure their own efficiency by producing reliable management accounts on which commercial decisions can be based.

To rather than charitable giving to a more acceptable level, much greater levels of efficiency need to be achieved and reported by the sector. Only a tiny minority of charities would measure up under the most lenient of spotlights that commercial organisations have to face.

Two years ago, I suggested to the Charity Commission that I could organise qualified accountants to review charities' accounts voluntarily if he could supply the accounts. He declined the offer, unless the volunteers could be persuaded to counsel charities falling short of required standards. This seemed impractical, given the impossible logistics of

£2m 'charity fraud' men flee London

Woman set up fake charity

'Act now to curb bogus charities'

Charity fund swindler is jailed

Plan to get tough on charity scams

Cleared of stealing £43,000

Accountants could develop an early warning system for possible abuses in the charity sector

an early warning system for the scandals in the charity sector, increasing in regularity, that rock the confidence of the public.

With so little attention being paid to charities' accounts, one wonders why there is so much concern for their make-up. SORP 2 will probably mature into SORP 22 without any real effect unless action is taken against charities that are not diligent in their financial management. It should be illegal for any charity to ask for donations without including a copy of their accounts. Perhaps they need to include a "wealth warning" that your donation can make charities seriously rich. At the moment,

the most enormous requests for money land on my desk with no mention of that charity's present financial state. Even when annual reports are presented, they are often preciously short of financial facts.

There are now so many charities holding enormous funds that any new magazine aimed at the sector seems assured of success by the advertising of financial advisers. It would enhance the value of their investment management if details of results had to be included in the accounts. The names of the fund managers showing performance against suitable indices would concentrate the mind wonderfully and reassure donors that their donations will be managed properly.

The charity sector contributes 3.4 per cent of GDP and employs more people than the motor industry at a cost of £19.5-£4 billion. The country cannot afford an inefficient charity sector. Public and government donations must be used, and seen to be used, wisely if the charity sector is to retain its credibility. I am convinced that it is accountants who hold the key to improving the management of the charity sector.

The author, executive chairman of Reed Executive, has founded two charities and is vice president of The Charity Forum.

New rules need to keep beneficiaries to the fore

By MICHAEL WEBBER

BY THE middle of 1994, new legal requirements will have come into force for charity accounting. These will cover keeping of accounting records; form and content of annual statements of accounts; preparation of a trustees' report; auditing of accounts; and submission of accounts to the Charity Commissioners.

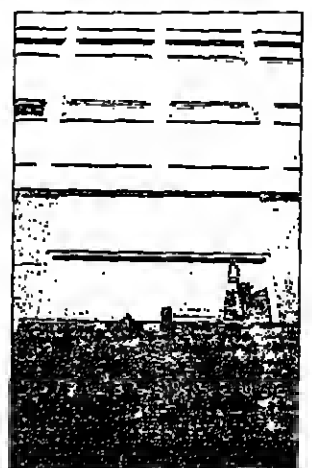
In most of these areas, the basic statutory framework will be filled out by more detailed regulations to be made by the home secretary. Present legal requirements, which date from 1960 for most charities, are now inadequate for the needs both of those who prepare charity accounts and of those who read them.

Charities receive about £17 billion of income each year, and it is essential that these sums are accounted for in a way that allows supporters and beneficiaries to judge how effectively they are applied and ensures the integrity of the charitable sector.

This is the context in which the Charity Commission has been reviewing the original 1988 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) on Accounting by Charities, principally to ensure the SORP remains consistent with new legislation. This review seeks to emphasise that, although

most charities are economically active, they are fundamentally different from commercial companies whose goal is distributable profit. Under the law, a charity wishing to trade in a commercial sense must set up a separate non-charitable entity for that purpose.

One cannot properly assess the financial position of a charity by the tests that apply in a commercial entity. Readers of charity accounts are not looking for the same things and the format should reflect this. A charity does not have shareholders who expect a return on capital. Its accounts should show how the trustees have applied for charitable



Key role: commission HQ

purposes all the resources, whether income, capital, or non-monetary, that became available during the year.

The revised SORP 2 is prescriptive in recommending a single approach in most areas, rather than several alternatives. This responds to criticism that the 1988 version, while attempting to recognise charities' great variety, lacked clarity and precision. A more prescriptive approach will make it easier to compare different charities' accounts.

In an article on this page (August 19) Chris Hordern of the ICAEW asked the commission to think again and criticised the haste with which he believes the SORP was revised. Since the exposure draft was published in March, the review committee has spent many hours considering some 350 responses. Many changes have been made as a result. A separate guide to SORP 2 has also been prepared for trustees of smaller charities, who may not have access to services of professional accountants.

The Home Secretary will publish his draft regulations for the form and content of accounts this autumn, and a further version of the SORP will be published at the same time so that readers can see the SORP side by side with the regulations. The ways in which the exposure draft has been amended will then be apparent. The SORP must be consistent with the regulations since the latter are part of the law while the former is not.

The revised edition aims to address many of the issues raised by respondents. However, the committee and the Charity Commission believe it is essential that trustees and other professionals recognise that charities exist solely for their beneficiaries. To this end it is necessary to have an adequate regulatory framework, bolstered by recommendations on best practice for accounts and trustees' reports that underpin this objective.

The author is a Charity Commissioner, and chairs the SORP 2 review committee.

JON ASHWORTH

Kingston Smith goes for broke

ACCOUNTANCY history, of a sort, was made this week when Kingston Smith of Bishopsgate, London, became the first UK chartered accountant to offer a full private client stockbroking service. Cheviot Capital, the financial advisory arm, has been elected to Stock Exchange membership, with Phillip Argheban joining from Astaire & Partners to lead the stockbroking operation. He is backed up by Ron Day, formerly of Scrimgeour Kemp Gee, and Ron Mills, ex-Quilter

Goodison, who are both trustees of the Stock Exchange Pension Scheme. The venture kicks off with nearly £20 million under management.

Scooping the pool

WHAT is it about the training at Coopers & Lybrand? The latest PE2 exam results saw Coopers snatching six of the top 20 places, four going to Arthur Andersen. Touche Ross managed three, Price Waterhouse two, including the tax prize, and two went to KPMG Peat Marwick. Following up, with one each, were Parnell Kerr Forster, Brookings Knowles & Lawrence, and

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Shaw & Co. The booby prize goes to Ernst & Young with no-one in the top 20 this time. Sixteen of the stars were men.

PICTURE this: a bank with 170,000 employees which supervises more than 150,000 banking offices and financial institutions. Such is the clout of the People's Bank of China, which has appointed Price Waterhouse as a special adviser on accounting, prudential supervision and regulatory issues. The three-year project is expected to consume

more than 100,000 fee hours... a nice little earner.

Peat power

NOTCH another two up for KPMG Peat Marwick, which has teamed up with the French state electricity company to upgrade the management and organisation of the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority. Electricité de France will await an audit by Peats before submitting its proposals. The one-year contract, financed by the World

Bank, is worth \$625,000. Close to home, KPMG has won a three-year contract to carry out internal audit services for Ofwat, the economic regulator for the water industry in England and Wales.

Touche terror

EVIDENCE of the fear a "visit from the accountants" can inspire emerged last week, when an anonymous caller telephoned George Westropp's press office at Touche Ross and nervously asked what the firm's financial services practice did. On hearing that it provided financial planning for executives, the caller hung

up with an audible sigh of relief. "He'd obviously heard Touche Ross was coming in and thought the company was going bust," says an amused spokesman. "He'll be happy to buy a pension after that."

ACCOUNTANTS are just not cut out for foot-in-the-door insurance tactics, it seems. A survey by Dotamonitor found independent financial advisers have an average annual turnover of £230,000, compared with £153,000 for solicitors and £113,000 per firm for the IFA networks. Accountants managed only £41,000.

JON ASHWORTH



THEATRE page 36
A gripping performance
from Anastasia Hille, as
Thérèse Raquin gets the
Young Vic treatment

ARTS

MUSIC page 37

Sir Colin Davis, an
inspiring conductor for
London schoolchildren
at the Barbican



CINEMA: Geoff Brown reports from the edge of his seat as *The Fugitive* runs off the small screen and on to the big

The doctor will seize you now

Consider yourself lucky: your name is not Dr Richard Kimble. Although clearly innocent, he is arrested, tried and convicted of murdering his beloved wife. After escaping from custody, he must look over his shoulder every second to see if the police are on his trail. For more than two hours he is hunted by helicopter,

pursued through a storm drain, chased along hospital stairs, corridors, and a St Patrick's Day parade, with only an arm's length or an automatic door separating him from captivity. It's a dog's life being *The Fugitive*. Devised by Roy Huggins, the original 1960s television series made David Janssen's name as an actor, and the choice of lead player remains crucial to this spectacular big-screen revival. Few other current film stars invest their roles with such genuine feeling as Harrison Ford (see story below). After one look at his hunted, creased face, we believe in Kimble's innocence, and share his plight as he tries to shake off the law while tracking down the one-armed man he found at the scene of the crime.

flamboyant set pieces set the pulse racing, and far outdistance the synthetic thrills of *Cliffhanger*.

Tommy Lee Jones, another survivor of *Under Siege*, deserves his own bouquet. He has been breathing down stars' necks since the early 1970s, but his work as Lieutenant Gerard, the obsessed state marshal, is striking enough to make him a star in his own right. He shades his lines with delicious irony, and pursues his prey with obvious relish. Jeroen Krabbé is also on form in the ambiguous role of Kimble's colleague, Dr Charles Nichols.

The Fugitive
Warner West End,
12, 140 mins
Rousing thrills with
Harrison Ford
Sleepless in Seattle
Odeon Leicester Square,
PG, 105 mins
Smart but indulgent
romantic comedy
The Wedding Banquet
Metro, Warner West
End, 15, 107 mins
Delightful cross-
cultural comedy
In the Soup
Everyman, 15, 93 mins
Zany tale of gangster
and poor film-maker
Boiling Point
Odeon, Haymarket,
15, 92 mins
Stone-cold thriller that
wastes good talent
Roadside Prophets
MGM Panton Street,
15, 96 mins
Counter-cultural odyssey
lost in a time warp

So let us rejoice: here is a Hollywood spectacular that strikes the right balance between character and action, and does not sell the audience short.

Nora Ephron's script for Rob Reiner's comedy *When Harry Met Sally* made hearts flutter and the rafters ring. *Sleepless in Seattle*, her second film as a writer-director, works overtime trying to repeat the success. This could almost be called *When Sam Met Annie*, although

Sam and Annie spend the entire movie edging towards a romantic meeting from opposite sides of the United States.

Sam lives in Seattle, a grieving widower who, prodded by his young son, spills out his heart over a radio phone-in programme. Annie hears him in Baltimore, and grows ever more curious, though she is mere weeks away from the altar. Their long-distance manoeuvrings pass pleasantly

enough: how could it be otherwise when the lines are tart ("It's easier to be killed by a terrorist than get married over the age of 40") and the stars are Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan? Yet a few nips and tucks from Ephron the director would have given the story much-needed bite: both exposition and wrap-up prove painfully protracted.

The film might also please more if it were not so self-consciously wrapped in fustian. The season is Christmas, and you cannot move for decorations. Song standards festoon the soundtrack: old films haunt the characters' minds. "Think Cary Grant" a work chum advises Hanks before a date, while Ryan is one of several women besotted with Grant's 1957 film *An Affair to Remember*, a saccharine comedy that dragged its feet even more than *Sleepless in Seattle*. None of this helps us take Sam

and Annie's problems to heart; they are clearly playing a game for the movies, even when Ephron tries to show Hanks caving in to loneliness and grief. Audiences experience their own mixed emotions. We smile at the amusing observations of the dating ritual; we groan at the schmaltz, and look at our watches.

The *Wedding Banquet* shares with *Sleepless in Seattle* a puppy's eagerness to please, although this Taiwanese-American venture ingratiates itself with greater subtlety and tact. Ang Lee's cross-cultural romp bounces along from one crisp scene to the next. Even the weighty jury at the Berlin Film Festival could not ignore its entertainment value: the film shared the Golden Bear, the top prize.

The surface is pure situation comedy. Wai-Tung, a Taiwanese real-estate dealer played by newcomer Winston Chao, lives in

Manhattan with his male Caucasian lover (Mitchell Lichtenstein). The folks back home wonder why he never marries: to ease the pressure, he arranges a union with an art student from Shanghai who is desperate for a green card. The nuptials might have passed unnoticed if the parents had not flown in for the celebrations. They insist on a formal wedding banquet, held in a plush hotel. Tensions rise, soaring further once the woman (May Chin) announces she is pregnant.

Although the patterned plot is unrealistically neat, Ang Lee — born in Taiwan, trained in America — digs deep into the characters' feelings, and avoids easy laughs about sexual orientation. He also supplies a political dimension for students of Asian history, although the fake marriage's reflection of Taiwanese and Chinese relations will sail over most Western heads.

Not to worry: we are still left with a tasty banquet.

Now, meet impoverished filmmaker Adolpho Rollo. He breakfasts on egg, milk and bread chunks stirred together in a frying pan. The landlord's thugs demand back rent. His gods are the serious fellows, Tarkovsky, Dostoevsky and Nietzsche, and he has a 500-page script to sell. Enter the gangster Joe, who puts up the bankroll, and clutches the bewildered Adolpho to his bosom.

Earlier films by the young American independent Alexandre Rockwell have not had audiences rocking with laughter. They have not had audiences, full stop. But in the loosely autobiographical *In the Soup* he has made a zany comedy of enormous charm that should appeal to anyone who relishes Jim Jarmusch's tall tales. Visually, *In the Soup* retains the

grainy black-and-white look that budgets force on many American independents. But the cast approaches the starchy, Steve Buscemi, the bug-eyed delight of *Reservoir Dogs* and *Baron Fink*, is the hopeful cineaste; Seymour Cassel bubbles over with bonhomie as the fatherly gangster, and Will Patton casts a quirky chill as the haemophilic Skippy, glowering in black.

Two footnotes. James B. Harris's thriller *Boiling Point* never even simmers, despite Wesley Snipes as a Treasury agent bent on revenge and Dennis Hopper as the villain with a fondness for 1940s big bands. But it seems a jewel next to *Abbe Wool's Roadside Prophets*, a dunderheaded counter-culture odyssey featuring punk rocker John Doe. Adam Horowitz of faded rappers the Beastie Boys, and 1960s leifovers such as Timothy Leary in cameo roles.



Jeroen Krabbé, on form as Dr Charles Nichols, a colleague of Harrison Ford's Dr Richard Kimble in the cinema remake of the cult 1960s television series, *The Fugitive*

Talking to Harrison Ford can resemble being in a Pinter play, David Robinson discovers

A star in his own silent movie

The swarm of paparazzi was finally shooed away, to expose Harrison Ford, waiting to face the world's film press on the occasion of the European premiere of *The Fugitive*, at the Venice festival.

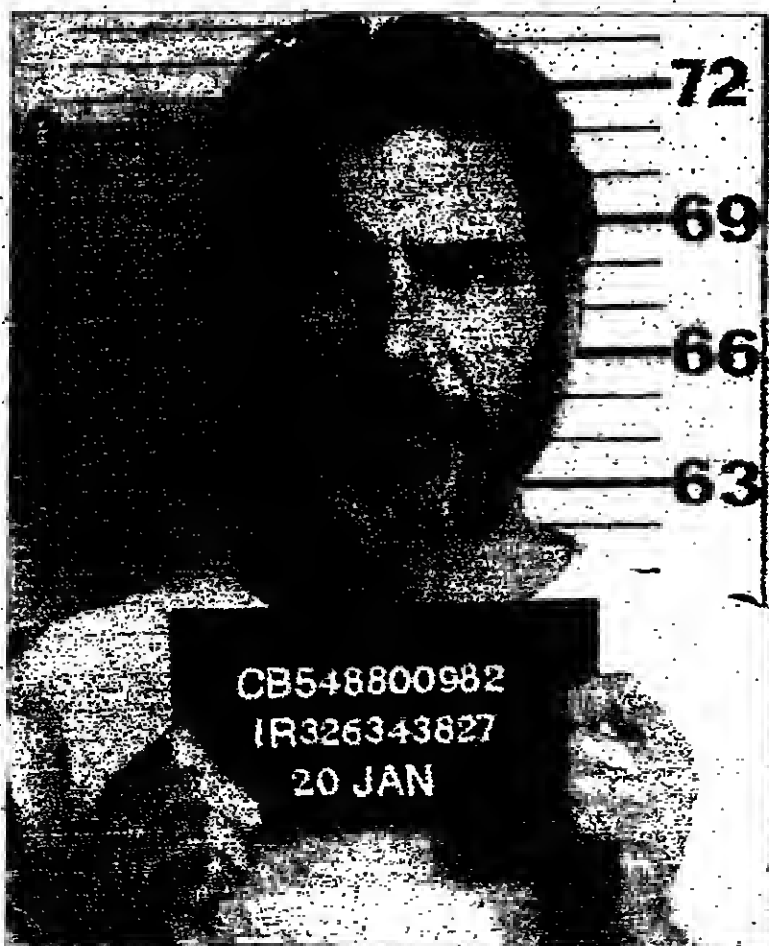
This was clearly not the part of the job he most enjoyed: in his plain-jane glasses, he looked less like a movie star on display than a P.E. teacher whose wife had left him that morning and who was in no mood for silliness from the fifth form.

A man with a reputation for being a reluctant talker at the best of times, he was flanked by the bearded, bouncy director of *The Fugitive*, Andrew Davis, and the producer, Arnold Kopelson. They, by contrast, were clearly dying to talk: but the press was more impatient to hear Ford.

Kopelson explained his 30-year enthusiasm for the original 1960s television series on which *The Fugitive* is based. "I first tried to get the film rights 20 years ago, but only succeeded six years ago. After that it took five and a half years, eight writers and 15 screenplays before we came up with a viable script. It was only the seventh writer's script that I gave to Harrison, although he was my first choice for the role of Richard Kimble."

Davis explained that, like most of his audience, he grew up too late to have known the television series. "We had to make something very contemporary to which people who were not even born at the time of the show could relate. We took from the show the basic premise of an innocent man on the run and the people who were chasing him. The problem of the film was to make both the character who is being chased and the man who is chasing him — played by Tommy Lee Jones — positive and sympathetic."

Articulating his thoughts about his own work, Ford constantly, almost obsessively, reverted to the supremacy of story. "Consciously what I do is to sit in the telling of stories... In choosing roles, I try to fix on a variety of stories with dramatic constructions in which the character I play has a part. In general what I need to know is how the character I play fits into the story and illustrates the idea of the story...



Harrison Ford glowers for the police camera before becoming *The Fugitive*

My input into the scripts of my films is always focused to the telling of the story.

It was surprising, though, to find this most phlegmatic of actors declaring: "I need to see that the story creates an emotional relationship with the character. I think that emotion is what is useful in drawing the audience into the story. So I look for the expression of emotion more than anything."

"Everyone has his own experience, his own emotions, his own intellect to bring to the work. Whether you wear a rubber nose or gain a hundred pounds,

it is still your brain that is choosing what behaviours to exhibit. The emotion thread that runs through my work is me."

How does he select projects? "My taste leads me into a certain kind of story. But then I try to vary the menu from time to time, with films like *Witness* and *Mosquito Coast*. I was always ambitious to do different kinds of films and I have gone from one type to another quite purposefully to demonstrate to the business community in Hollywood that I was useful in more than one kind of film."

Would he reject certain subject-matter, even if the picture was well written and gave him a good character? "Well, I exercise taste — my own personal taste. There are certain things I don't like: violence as entertainment, kinetics without ideas."

He is happy that *The Fugitive* presents an argument against capital punishment. "I think that the death penalty is institutionalised retribution which is not a very high state of the human spirit," he said. "I don't believe in capital punishment."

Ford was frank in answering the inevitable question about the spectacular stunts in *The Fugitive*. "I don't do dangerous things. I do physical acting. Some scenes, like the train crash, were done by special effects. The dive from the reservoir was done by an articulated dummy. Neither I nor stand-ins were involved. Other scenes in the film may seem physically demanding, but they were not dangerous."

Davis felt impelled to redress the balance of Ford's modesty. "Harrison does not do his own stunts: but it is his head that bangs against the car and the top of the elevator," the director interjected. "He is running, he is jumping, he is putting out tremendous energy."

The continental press were curious to know whether federal marshals yell all the time, as Jones seems to do in the film. Davis defended the character: "It may seem strange to European audiences, but American audiences don't think he's shouting. They just think he's taking over the operation, establishing his authority."

This, though, stirred Ford to a warm defence of a fellow actor. "Tommy Lee gives a remarkable performance and an effectively modulated performance," he said. "There's a lot of range in his character, and to say that he is just shouting is very unfair to him. And also to Mr Davis. Thank you."

New York beckons

TOM Stoppard has waited a long time for this. His 1988 play *Hapgood* will receive its New York premiere next spring at Lincoln Centre, the theatre that has been suggested as an eventual New York home for Stoppard's current National Theatre success, *Arctia*. *Hapgood* did have one previous American outing — a production on the West Coast, which flopped. The New York production will feature the American actress Stockard Channing (Sir Degrees of Separation) inheriting Felicity Kendal's original role.

THE new team at English National Opera has decided not to appoint a successor to David Pountney as director of productions. Instead Dennis Marks and Sian Edwards

ARTS BRIEFING

have created a new department of artistic administration and dramaturgy "to combine the functions of planning, casting, dramaturgy and artistic development". Its director will be Gus Mostart, a former director of productions for Glyndebourne Touring Opera and former artistic director of Vancouver Opera. He starts at the Coliseum on November 1.

THREE of the world's top dancers have been snapped up as guest artists by English National Ballet. Susan Jaffe of American Ballet Theatre will dance in performances of *The Sleeping Beauty* (in a new production by Ronald Hynd)

and in Ben Stevenson's production of *The Nutcracker* during the autumn and Christmas seasons. Igor Zelensky, who appeared in London this summer with his home company, the Kirov, will dance the role of the Prince in ENB's *The Nutcracker* on tour and in London. And Yelena Pankova also returns to ENB for its Christmas season. The company has also reported a 15 per cent increase in its audiences. Its box office revenue grew from £3.1 million in 1991-2 to £3.8 million in 1992-3.

TAKING its cue from English National Opera, Scottish Opera is inviting audiences to help stage Brinen's *The Turn of the Screw* at the Tramway in Glasgow in February 1994. The "I'm Backing Brinen" campaign is designed to win sponsorship from individuals rather than businesses. Sponsors can give from £25 to £1,000.

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numbing. Watching a woman defecate to Bach's Concerto for Two Violins must be an acquired taste.

Rodolfo Garcia's *Vida* adapts and directs *Sade* with greater success than did Nick Hedges, who staged *120 Days of Sodom* here two years ago. But this production can be theatrically crude. Slapping a red light on sex scenes is as unobscure as it is unoriginal.

Ivann Cabral (Dolmance) and Daniel Gaggini (The Statue) give physically excellent performances. Yet there is some clumsy melodrama and the translation is ropey. *Sade*, in a strong Brazilian accent, can sound unintentionally ridiculous. "One of the merest infernal men in de empire?" That is when the dialogue is not completely incomprehensible. The cast are not the only ones groping in the dark.

KATE BASSETT

KATE BASSETT

KATE BASSETT

KATE BASSETT

KATE BASSETT

KATE BASSETT

KATE BASSETT

Abandon hope, you who enter

The atmosphere at this year's contest for television's Prix Italia is nothing if not serious. Lynne Truss stifles her giggles

The image on the screen is reminiscent of the proverbial black cat in a coal mine. In an unspecified location in The Netherlands — in a Dutch documentary entered for this year's Prix Italia, cheerily entitled *Worm Within* (De Worm in het Zijn) — a man, whose skin and hair are so begrimed by filth and paraffin smoke that he resembles a living flue-brush, shows us

Every day, you can be depressed in six different languages.

"I've got some pictures here," he says (in Dutch), waving his crude paraffin lamp at what appears to be a perfectly black wall. "Pictures" thinks the viewer. "This bloke is not just dirty, he's mad."

But he rubs at a section of the wall with his hand, and a thick — unbelievably thick — glob of sticky soot falls away, to reveal a pale line of postcards underneath. One of these he unsticks (crack!) from the wall and displays to the camera. Apparently it is a representation of his favourite Watteau, but in the present uncompromising lighting conditions, one cannot verify this and is obliged to take his word.

The programme is about isolation and it is very good. But it is also unfortunately typical. For the 45-year-old Prix Italia is an awfully serious competition. In fact, one suspects that if an entry for any of the television categories — music and arts, documentary and fiction — does not contain examples of misery, nihilism, skeletal corpses, existential horror or people caked with soot, it is stopped and searched at the airport, and put on the first flight home.

Last year, when the Prix was held in Parma (and I was attending for the first time) I noted a strange documentary from Finland about a

man so scared of the Russians that he spent 27 years hiding in a cellar, cunningly concealed under a pile of potatoes. Here was desperation at its nadir, I thought. But how wrong I was. Compared with the suffering in many of the 1993 entries, 27 years under a pile of potatoes is a mere bagatelle.

For this year, in Rome, you can rub away at the black stuff but you only reveal more black stuff underneath. Every day, in fact, you can be depressed in six different languages. "Potatoes? Twenty-seven years? Is that all?" we say in Rome.

In Saipan in 1944, 200 Japanese people committed mass suicide by throwing themselves off a cliff (France 2 document-

tary: *Saipan*). Take a look at America's PBS entry *Silverlake Life: The View from Here*, in which a video diary shows a man dying of AIDS, right before your eyes. See how CBC in Canada has taken a mass child-abuse case and dramatised the suffering in *The Boys of St Vincent*. Catch some of the stark cruelty used by Tony Palmer to illustrate Henryk Gorecki's *Symphony of Sorrowful Songs* (Channel 4). Potatoes? What are you going to tell me about potatoes?

Rumours had been rife that the Prix Italia would not take place this year. Evidently Italy's RAI (Radio-Televisone Italiano) usually spends £1 million to mount the festival — which is not much when you consider that the annual turnover of terrestrial television in Britain is about £3 billion, but is nevertheless a conspicuous expense when all backs are against the wall.

RAI's compromise for 1993 was to halve the cost by holding the Prix Italia at its own headquarters in Rome instead of commandeering a small town — a decision which does



Omar Ebrahim and Fiona O'Neill in BBC2's adaptation of Marschner's *The Vampyre*: in the context of the Prix Italia, "music and arts" means "music and dance"

not disrupt the competition (jury rooms, observer viewing and listening rooms, small basement booths for individual sessions with cast-sets), but which obviously undermines the other, important functions of the Prix, in making it difficult for the international delegates to meet by chance in the evenings, or even (mercifully perhaps) to get together and wail (we are doomed, we are all doomed).

Under the weight of this gloom — compounded by the airlessness of the booths and the wallow of the Mark 4 heat that greets you each time you step out of doors — it has been understandably difficult to keep one's spirits up. On the other hand, quality television, even of the life-under-the-potatoes kind, has its consolations and there is plenty of quality here, despite the odd whimper from mystified jurors still

waiting for the outstanding programmes to leap off the screen.

An old Prix Italia hand tells me, incidentally, that it is customary for jurors to start shaking their heads and muttering about "not giving the prize this year", and that they are usually dissuaded. It's just a phase they go through.

From my own parochial standpoint, the answer to the judges' problem is simple: award all the prizes to the Brits. But you would be surprised at the level of resistance to this idea, despite the evident popularity of British programmes in viewing rooms. In the drama section, (called "fiction") there has been an agreeable word-of-mouth buzz among the delegates about the BBC's wonderful adaptation of Alice Thomas Ellis's *The Clothes in the Wardrobe* — in fact,

it is a programme that has been most often recommended to newcomers ("Jeanne Moreau! Joan Plowright!") but popularity being no guarantee of success, it is probably unwise to get too excited at this stage.

Meanwhile Channel 4's *Riff Raff* (by Ken Loach) must be in with a chance, and our three documentaries are all strong: Channel 4's *Homeland* (Yuri Podnieks's poignant and beautiful hymn to his native Latvia); Yorkshire Television's commendably non-exploitative *Katie and Elisha* (about the separation of Siamese twins); and BBC2's *The Engineer's Plot* from Adam Curtis's excellent series *Pandora's Box*, about the failure of 20th-century ideas of scientific progress.

In the music and arts section, however, I feel we almost deserve to fail — not because of the quality of the entries, but because we have cravenly bowed our necks to the unwritten rule that, in the context of the Prix Italia, "music and arts" means "music and dance" and admits no element of documentary, or arts in the broader sense. Since arts documentaries are one of our great strengths, you might suppose we would continue to resist this reading. But no. Thus the BBC has entered *Vampyre: A Soap Opera* (directed by Nigel Finch), while ITV's contender is Tony Palmer's hard-hitting *South Bank Show* illustrating Gorecki's *The Symphony of Sorrowful Songs*.

Just because last year's judges discounted Paul Pawlikowski's witty *Bookmark* programme Dostoevsky's *Travels* (they said it

was a documentary), and professed to find nothing "remarkable" in the *South Bank Show's* fascinating (and very popular) analysis of the Beatles' *Sgt Pepper*, the Brits have promptly shuffled into line. Such pragmatism is rather disappointing.

Will the Prix Italia survive? Of course it should: it is a force for good. According to the outgoing secretary-general, Piergiorgio Brandi, the show will go on, possibly with the benefit of a papal blessing on Friday (Yes! The Pope). But it is hard — as I said — to be cheerful, when the programmes all start with lines such as "Yes, it's all over" (*Worm Within*) and when people come here to debate "Est-ce la fin de l'histoire?", as a manner of course. For an event so packed with foreboding, actually to capitulate seems strangely inappropriate.

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CONCERTS: Mahler and Shostakovich; Sibelius and Elgar

Second among equals?

With the race for recognition as London's second orchestra under way — the LSO has already taken first prize — the start of the new season has a feeling of greater urgency than ever. Proudly sporting a new logo, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has made a cheeky pre-emptive strike by billing itself "Britain's national orchestra".

It ushered in the new era at the Festival Hall on Tuesday evening with the spirited *Fantasia for a New Beginning* by Gareth Wood, chairman and double bass player with the orchestra, followed by a rousing account of Wagner's *Meistersinger* overture under the principal conductor, Yuri Temirkanov.

The delicate nuances of Mahler's Rückert Lieder could not be further removed from the overweening spirit of celebration embodied in that overture. Ann Murray was perfectly attuned to this world of inner contemplation. "Liebst du um Schönheit" (If you love for beauty) is more

than a love song, penetrating to the essence of love itself, and Murray held us spellbound with quiet intensity. "Um Mitternacht" (At Midnight) was properly a darker view of things: here Murray caught the dull tone of the hopelessness beyond anguish, an emptiness that cannot be dispelled completely even by the poet's final protestation of faith in God. The truth is told in the final song, "Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen" (I am lost to the world), where the poet reconciles himself to his fate. And here Murray, with Temirkanov's sensitive accompaniment, drew us surely to that haven of tranquillity represented by art, the syllables of the poet's song dissolving themselves into pure ethereal sound.

Temirkanov's approach to Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony was less easily intelligible. His determination to exaggerate the contrasts between, say, the murky stillness of the opening and the wild assault of the development section, produced a series of climaxes of truly visceral effect (especially from a seat only a dozen rows away). But already the suspicion was growing that there would be a price to pay in lack of organic growth.

The coda was a perfect evocation of that bleak, frosty landscape of the Russian soul, and here Temirkanov came into his own, as he did in the hell-for-leather anarchy of the second-movement Allegro. His players backed him to the hilt, though for all the forceful utterances of the final two movements, one felt that the impact of the structural whole had been diminished through excessive attention to the needs of the moment.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Learning from experience

Since Sir Colin Davis and Sibelius go together like well, perhaps like Arctic cloudberries and cream, the London Schools Symphony Orchestra and its Barbican audience were in for a treat on Monday night. But with Sir Colin's magnificent Sibelius cycle with the London Symphony Orchestra still ringing in the ears, this was to be a hard act for the players, at least, to follow.

The LSSO, assembled from some 75 students from maintained London schools, and supported generously by London Electricity through the Foundation and the Centre for Young Musicians, becomes of course a slightly different creature every year. This past year has seen an animal with a healthy brass bark and a formidable strings bite, with Suzuki-trained leader Ilona Hale an astute and assured partner for any conductor.

Sibelius's Fifth Symphony, though, is still quite some challenge. A fiery charge of energy shot from baton to bow at the start of the first movement. So far, so good; but the great weight of responsibility which follows in the rise and cruelly exposed fall of



Sir Colin Davis: inspiring with confidence and energy

Sibelius's arching line, to say nothing of the great swathes of synopacted figures which follow in its wake, is something else again. This was certainly a performance in which the listener was acutely aware of the full complexity as well as the coherence of Sibelius's grand design. Sir Colin's characteristically long-sighted and deep-breathing way with the

score inspired confidence and recharged energy at moments when both might have wavered.

The warm breadth of the horn playing, both in the eager opening and the swinging finale theme, seemed inspired by the evening's centrepiece. Four horn players from the English Chamber Orchestra (the band responsible for coaching the LSSO) stepped out to play the rarely performed *Concertstück* by Schumann. Its three linked movements for a quartet of solo valve horns and orchestra combine lip-breaking virtuosity with warm, choral-style writing. Frank Lloyd, Anthony Halstead, Andrew Moxon and Christian Rutherford made one long to hear the piece more often.

The evening had begun with an endearing performance of Elgar's *Cockaigne* Overture, fresh, high-stepping and winsome in its sense of seeming to be almost thrown by the particular pomp, circumstance and swagger expressed in this vision of a London now unfamiliar to its present players.

HILARY FINCH

Accent on violence

TELEVISION:
Peter Barnard
reviews a revenge
drama set among
Irish terrorists



Mark Rylance and Elizabeth Bourigne: web of intrigue

The government's restrictions on the broadcasting of statements by Irish terrorist sympathisers mean that their words can be reported but not in their own voices. Most of the time I find this restriction silly. Last night there were moments when I might have wished for its extension into fiction. A combination of the low light levels so beloved of Nineties television directors and heavily accented Irish voices made *Love Lies Bleeding* (BBC2) heavy going.

The essence of the piece, the first in a new series of Screenplay, is an attempt by an IRA murderer to avenge the killing of his former girlfriend. He is released from The Maze on a one-day "home visit", and spends the day chasing other killers. Most of us would settle for sex, booze or trout fishing, but to be a fanatic is to pursue a different agenda.

The search for revenge unravels a web of intrigue, which reveals the murdered girlfriend as a Loyalist collaborator and the avenging prisoner as the killer of two innocent women: "We blew up the wrong car". Oh well, mistakes will happen. By this time what little sympathy one might have felt for the main character has all but vanished.

One stuck it out in homage to a fine performance by Mark Rylance as Conn Ellis. It was all in his face, which carried from start to finish a look which built panic, doubt and determination into a single taut mosaic. If some of the panic was informed by the knowledge that a plot twist few would credit was looming, Rylance cannot be blamed.

He must have gulped, for instance, to find himself in accidental contact with a fetching French *femme* who happened to be working in Belfast and happened to know (nay, lived with) the aforementioned deceased girlfriend. As with so much to do with Northern Ireland, progress is a triumph of luck over judgment.

The writing is a triumph of realism over art. This is Roman Bennett's first screenplay, his

favoured genre being the novel. He resists cleverness, so that his dialogue has a banal authenticity, the adjective implying no criticism: Bennett did dine in Long Kesh (he was later cleared of the offence) and his prison dialogue carries the chill of real-speak.

So does his street talk, which conveys the deadly ordinariness of casually violent men for whom actions speak so

much louder than words that the men are beyond comprehending the relationship between their words and their actions. The trouble, last night, was that none of the words illuminated the issue. There was no sense that we were being edged a millimetre nearer the truth. To that extent, the fiction parallels reality. If that is the answer, what was the question?

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Plumbing fit for the king

Getting the builders in was as bad in the 16th century as today, says **Antonia Fraser**

It is an illusion of the much-showered and bathed late 20th century that washing began in 1963, as Philip Larkin might have said. One of the revelations of Simon Thurley's superb and engrossing study is that the subject of hygiene and sanitation preoccupied authorities from the Middle Ages onwards.

As well it might: not for them the easy water supplies and convenient drains we have come to expect. Instead, you had a state of affairs where quantities of human beings lived together — in short the royal court and its concomitants, averaging 600 persons from the king and queen down to the humblest baker's boy. Nor did this 600 stay in one place. After a few weeks, it was on to the next palace, either as part of a planned royal progress, or to hunt, or simply to allow the first palace to be cleaned up. Thus the provision of water and the carrying-away of waste were both elaborate matters demanding much planning. Indeed, the water supply, quite as much as its defensive position, often dictated the actual site of a castle.

The detail of all this will appeal to all those non-royal persons nowadays who have indulged in the pleasure of building works since it is astonishingly similar. Henry VIII's workmen had to be coaxed to work overtime into the small hours by candlelight, with lashings of beer, bread and cheese, and then did not always complete their task much before the great man and his entourage moved to, so that the plaster might still be wet. (Being in a palace which was not quite ready for Henry VIII, most have been an especially gruesome fate.) Pipes broke, and for ease of mending little brick houses with stopcocks were erected along the route, known as "tamplins": one, illustrated in this book, can apparently still be seen on Combe Hill golf course, marking the route of

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By Simon Thurley
Yale University Press, £29.95

the conduit between Combe Hill and Hampton Court. And for all these precautions, human nature remained awkward. The courtiers, caught short, were apt to dash for the nearest courtyard: so much so, that an experiment was tried of marking these walls with red crosses, on the grounds that such symbols would not be defiled. Another common-sense instruction: "Beware of pissing in chimneys" suggests that not everyone was as wary as they should have been.

I have stressed the fascinating domestic side to Thurley's study. Otherwise, in its sumptuous edition, it might seem to be merely another scholarly celebration of royal magnificence: a little removed, perhaps, from the general reader. Certainly "magnificence" is the theme of this book, as it was the eternal theme of Tudor monarchs, expressed in their courts.

Magnificence, the magnificence of the sovereign that is, was to be reflected in every aspect of furnishings (gold decorations where possible), hangings (rich tapestries best of all) and above all of the ritual. Even the personal details of the king's life were to be conducted as solemnly as possible, and formally attended by those courtiers empowered to do so, in order to hallow his position in the eyes of his subjects.

It is Thurley's achievement to show that such organisation was never brought about haphazardly: the monarchy then, as now, was a matter of style and presentation, as well as form, in which the minutest details played their part. One



A view by a 17th-century artist of Henry VII's most famous residence at Richmond, Surrey, which he rebuilt after a fire destroyed much of the medieval royal manor

intriguing example is provided by the careful changing of the heraldic symbols of his respective wives in windows, as, in their different ways, for different reasons, they failed to stay the course. In view of the quick turnover in the king's later life — five wives in 14 years — one must be cynically happy for him. I suppose, that of his wives, the first, fifth and sixth shared the same initial, as did the second and

fourth. This must have made certain unalterable survivals less embarrassing: at King's College Chapel, Cambridge for example, where a politically incorrect A for Anne Boleyn continued to lurk after her death (and still does).

The psychological explanation for Henry VIII's mania for acquiring residences (he had over 60 at his death, to his father's 25) and renovating those he had, probably

does not need much probing. The result of this explosion was that the disposition of court life was set for three centuries after his death, not altered in effect until the time of Queen Victoria. So that the king, once termed a "phoenix in fine masonry", dominated in this way from his grave, as he dominates our history in so many other ways. The domestic detail of his life continues to fascinate: not only his

baths but also his beds. Those who doubt the conventional picture of the obese monarch of later years, will be convinced by the fact that a fine walnut bed constructed in the 1530s, had to be enlarged in 1542: it was now 7ft 6in by 7ft.

Lady Antonia Fraser's book *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* has just been published in paperback by Mandarin, £6.99.

Divines who went over to Rome

The achievements of John Henry Newman and Henry Manning are extraordinary by any standards. These two prominent divines in the Church of England, were both fellows of Oxford colleges. Both converted, on doctrinal conviction, to Roman Catholicism, and both men, often very different in attitude to their new church, became cardinals. Manning became Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, in charge of the whole Roman Catholic Church in England.

And all was achieved in spite of the convert's biggest handicap, that he or she is regarded with suspicion both by those they have left and, more importantly, by those they join.

Newsome rightly detects that the characters of the two men did not significantly change after their conversions. Yet each man's emphasis was entirely different. Newman's intense devotion to the Church of England in the first half of his life and his conviction that conversion was an intellectual, scholarly and historical necessity, meant that his Catholicism was firmly English. Manning was more in sympathy with continental Catholicism, ultramontane in theory, ceremonial and forms of worship. G.K. Chesterton recalled him in later life dressed in his cardinal's robes "a ghost clad in flames... a conflagration of scarlet, such lakes of lake".

As Newsome explains, the temperamental differences, which necessarily led to friction between the two men, have accounted for much abuse of Manning over the years, and much panegyric of Newman. Sensibly, and with restraint, Newsome sets the record straight. It becomes clear that Manning was concerned with temporal power — he was a politician and a doer — whereas Newman was more concerned with thought and argument. Newsome comments that the passage of time "will always favour the thinker rather than the doer of deeds".

To Manning the issue of temporal power, which caused him late in life, to lead the successful mediation in the London dock strikes of 1889, was crucial. Newsome notes that to Newman, "it was a thing indifferent". Manning's cure of souls extended into their political activity; Newman, even though one of his Oratory's chief concerns was with the working families of

Birmingham, was not interested in politics. Newman distrusted politicians, and perhaps this was his reason for reserve with Manning; and there is no doubt that Newman felt that Manning's manoeuvrings in Rome blocked temporarily his elevation to the cardinalate.

In his reticence of the panegyric, Newsome is a little hard in his summary of Newman: "He nourished resentment far too deeply: he refused to take efforts at reconciliation at their face value; and a trust once broken was a trust destroyed."

The *Convert Cardinals* signals the return of David Newsome to the public arena of 19th-century church history after too long an absence. His style is eminently readable, his critical assessment of these two towering figures in Anglican and Roman Catholic religion, shrewd and exacting.

Brian W. Martin

THE CONVERT CARDINALS
Newman and Manning
By David Newsome
John Murray, £25
APOLOGIA PRO VITA SUA
By John Henry Newman
Edited by William Oddie
Everyman, £5.99 pbk

to say the same of Newsome's balanced double biography. The rare quality of Newman's thought and argument is apparent in his *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, occasioned by Charles Kingsley's slur against him. In it Newman justified his life and faith, and William Oddie's new edition is an appropriate tribute to Newman's most important, most popular work. He has successfully restored its controversial basis, accompanying it with an elegantly informative introduction for the general reader, a chronology of Newman's times, and draws attention to Newman's "combination of intellectual verve, sardonic wit, and perfect control of tone and language".

Oddie describes the central part of the *Apologia* as Newman's "drama of the mind... his quest for the holy grail" and rightly judges that Newman was "writing as if for his life".

Brian Martin teaches at Magdalen College School, Oxford. His book, *John Henry Newman: His Life and Work*, is published by Mowbray.

Michael Church recalls two great figures of the post-war British stage and screen

Theatre in the family



Tony Richardson: his early career was swift and sure-footed

One by one, the grandees of post-war theatre yield their memoirs. Bit by bit, the landscape becomes clear, with the Royal Court as the well-spring at its centre. Bill Gaskill, John Osborne, and — posthumously — John Dexter have all given their version of the English Stage Company's invincible march through the theatre and on to the cinema screen.

Now, in close and fascinating counterpoint to Osborne, we have Tony Richardson's posthumous testament, with a fiery introduction from Lindsay Anderson.

According to the author's daughter Natasha, *Long Distance Runner* was never intended for publication. She discovered the manuscript, badly typed and full of omissions, hidden at the back of a disused cupboard on the day her father died of AIDS. He had apparently finished it six years earlier, at the time when he was diagnosed HIV-positive. She thinks that she and her sisters were his intended readership.

Yet the result is a work of singular power. From amateur dramatics (with Gaskill) in Shipley, via student drama at Oxford, to the heavy artillery at Sloane Square, and then on to cinematic triumph directing *Tom Jones* and *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, Richardson's chronicle reflects both the temper of his times and the swift and sure-footed quality of his early career.

He has an unsleepingly observant eye, and an evocative turn of phrase. He casts Murray Melvin, with a face "like an Egyptian hieroglyph", opposite "that little hedgehog from Liverpool". Rita

LONG DISTANCE RUNNER
A Memoir
By Tony Richardson
Faber, £17.50

ROBERT, MY FATHER
By Sheridan Morley
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.99

Tushingham. He nurses Hugh Griffith along, "part drunk, part amateur, wholly child".

He watches William Inge — the poor third in the triumvirate with Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller — constantly shy away from his own talent. He compliments Jean Genet on his professionalism, and realises too late his mistake: praise is the one thing the masochistic French playwright can't stand, so he quits the production.

Richardson's picture of Tallulah Bankhead on set, insisting on being rehearsed while sitting on the lavatory, or smearing her face with make-up and wiping her hands on the cleanest understudy's shirt, is hilariously revolting. Mick Jagger makes an inadequate Ned Kelly, but is still endearing. The Burtons, with their drunken tantrums, are emphatically not.

This tale, despite its increasing dalliance in idyllic places, winds up as an inward odyssey, with its culmination in — of all things — tennis. "Without my hours of self-knowledge on the court, I doubt I could ever have written this account."

But the self-knowledge is jealously guarded. We glimpse a series of conventional heterosexual love af-



Robert Morley: stranded between two theatrical waves

fairs (Jeanne Moreau among them), but we see only the presentable bits of his tangled relationship with Vanessa Redgrave. And he makes no reference to Aids, or anything which might have led to it. As both Anderson and Natasha Richardson point out, he carefully edits the truth. No matter. His "gangling, whiplash courage" — in John Osborne's affectionate phrase — leaves its mark on every page.

Robert Morley occupies a prominent place in Richardson's rogues' gallery, indicted for behaving like "a boorish prima donna" while filming *The Loved One*. In *Robert, My Father* the same episode is recorded, this time indicating the director for boorish wrong-headedness. Frankly, I buy the Morley line.

Sheridan Morley's book is a shining act of filial devotion. It

offers a nicely analytical but inevitably partisan account of the career, and a rounded (well, what other shape could it be?) portrait of the man. This great boulevardier's professional misfortune was to be stranded between two theatrical waves. If Ben Travers had come back into fashion earlier, Robert Morley might have got his due as the consummate stage technician he was.

Bowling along in the Wildean bon viveur's wake, young Sheridan identifies so closely that his book feels at times like autobiography. The anecdotes are smoothed from countless retellings and embellishings, the tone is that of the after-dinner speech. But, as he admits, he never manages to discover what made his extraordinary father tick. That will require someone more detached, less mesmerised.

When cultures clash

Jonathan Mirsky

A HISTORY OF HONG KONG
By Frank Welsh
HarperCollins, £25

THE HISTORY of Hong Kong, as Frank Welsh demonstrates in this magnificent, compendious and much-needed history of the colony, is one of misunderstandings, misjudgments and embarrassment. An ex-Hong Kong banker, the author starts his history in the early 19th century, and manages to include the appointment of Chris Patten as governor last year. While for the British Hong Kong ("that natural child of Victorian Britain and China") has been a cultural and political triumph, for the Chinese it has been a perpetual symbol of national humiliation.

Both sides were culture bound. British merchants thought the Chinese were characterised by "a marvellous degree of imbecility, avarice, conceit and obstinacy". Lin Zexu, the Emperor's man in Canton, who confronted the British just before the 1839-40 Opium War, by burning 2,613,879 lbs of their opium argued that China could punish the British for importing opium by withholding rhubarb and tea: the barbarians could not live without them. Also their soldiers could not fight on shore because "their legs were too tightly bound to permit them to box or wrestle".

Hong Kong never made it to the top of Britain's list of political priorities until Chris Patten was appointed. Privately, Churchill wrote off as not worth defending against the Japanese.

In 1946, the first post-war governor, Sir Mark Young, drafted a plan for a municipal council constituted on a fully representative basis, but this was consistently turned down. The colonial secretary, Oliver Lyttelton, admitted years later that this was because "the electorate of Britain didn't care a brass farthing about Hong Kong". Welsh thinks that this remains true, but he also reminds us that Chris Patten proposed a — partly — democratically-elected council last year; in 1946 the Chinese would have been in no position to object, as they do now.

But Welsh is right to point out a great truth, which lies behind Peking's current rage. The colony was indeed run for too long on authoritarian lines. But he adds: "There is no society in Asia that has enjoyed for so long as Hong Kong the freedom that democracy is commonly supposed to guarantee."

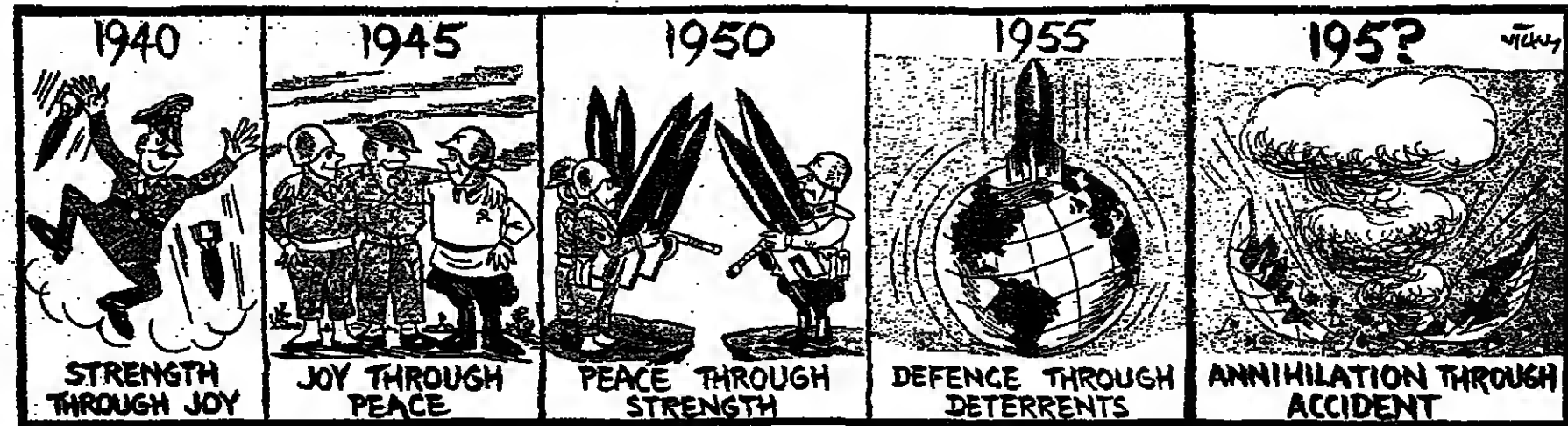
Living under the shadow of the bomb

Lawrence Freedman reminds us that the stability of the cold war era was bought at a price

The cold war is a convenient label for the years from the end of the second world war, when Winston Churchill observed an "iron curtain" descending across Europe "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic", to the lifting of that curtain in the exhilarating year of 1989, which concluded with the breach of the Berlin Wall and the downfall of the murderous Ceausescu in Romania.

Within Europe this conflict touched all aspects of life, as two opposing social systems sought to demonstrate their superiority, and prepared for the day when it might prove necessary to resolve their differences through force. Soon the conflict spread to Asia, providing the backdrop to bloody wars in Korea and then Vietnam. Few parts of the globe escaped. The cold war appeared to determine everything — from the functioning of the United Nations and the processes of decolonisation, to the development of the international economy and the rise of Japan. As a result, as Martin Walker notes, "The history of the cold war has been the history of the world since 1945."

However, more precise definitions are possible. The cold war can be taken as a drawn-out clash of ideologies or the culmination of 20th-century power politics. As a battle between two incompatible



Vicky's outline of a short history of the modern world appeared on March 4, 1955. His cartoon encapsulated the growing horror of the risk of nuclear apocalypse

sets of ideas over how to run advanced economies, it can be seen to begin with the 1917 Russian revolution and only really to conclude with the collapse of the vanguard party after the failed Moscow coup of August 1991.

Yet in terms of power politics it most usefully refers to that period from the late 1940s to the early 1960s when a hot war between the

superpowers was a distinct possibility and governed all aspects of their foreign policies. It was only after the moments of truth in Berlin (1961) and Cuba (1962) that the United States and Soviet Union realised that their mutual antipathy had to be contained within manageable limits.

In the early 1970s the prevailing mood of the détente was contrasted

THE COLD WAR
By Martin Walker
Fourth Estate, £18.99

favourably with the former cold war. However, the heightened tension of the early Reagan years, with star wars and Euro-missiles, re-

vived the idea of a potential hot war. Almost exactly a decade ago the whole Soviet security apparatus was searching for signs that the United States was about to launch a nuclear strike. After the fierce reaction to the shooting down of a Korean airliner on September 1, 1983, with American forces engaged in the Lebanon and Grenada and the Polish Solidarity leader, Lech

Walesa, receiving the Nobel peace prize, Soviet agents paid special attention to a Nato exercise in the first days of November designed to test command co-ordination and procedures for Nato release.

The condition of the ailing Soviet leader Yuri Andropov confined to his kidney-dialysis machine was symbolic of the system over which he presided: the anxiety over West-

ern intentions reflected not only the exaggerated rhetoric of Reagan but the growing sense of the sclerosis afflicting this supposedly revolutionary society.

This is one of many dramatic moments Walker recalls so effectively. He has written a thorough, perceptive and workmanlike book, with a wide range of sources consulted and little left out, but the result is rather dogged. It is a story involving a kaleidoscope of characters and crises, with the stars making cameo appearances in a succession of loosely-related incidents and complex sub-plots. With so much to pack in there is never quite enough space to set a scene, explore a personality or develop an argument.

Whatever the cold war was it certainly seems to have been survived. By contrast the past few years have seen great turmoil in the post-communist world. The sense of potential danger — "the shadow of the bomb" — with which the East-West encounter was described contemporaneously is now giving way to an almost nostalgic view of the cold war as a golden age of stability. If nothing else Walker's book reminds us that it contained many alarming moments when it was by no means clear that every crisis would be managed and that the long peace it did bring came at a price.



Peter Hoeg: his prose fuses the laconic and the poetic

Murder in the bleak midwinter

Miss Smilla Jaspersen is a physicist, sometimes political activist, a single woman without lover or child, for whom "solitude is the light of grace". "I'm not perfect. I think more highly of snow and ice than of love. It's easier for me to be interested in mathematics than to have affection for my fellow human beings. But I am anchored to something in life that is constant."

She lives alone in downtown Copenhagen, a dockland district populated by other Greenland immigrants, the city's underclass.

Daughter of an Eskimo hunter, mother and a Danish anaesthetist father, Smilla's childhood was spent in a frozen landscape which has penetrated her spirit, her bones. She is, in the city, a loser, an outsider, a maverick with assorted causes, dismissed from assorted organisations, who finds, one winter evening, a cause like no other: a murdered child. "A child who is born is something to seek out, something to search for, a star, a northern light... A child who is dead is an abomination."

Isaac is fatherless, the son of a neighbour, Juliette, who drinks and neglects him. He is uncomplicated, often hungry, devouring to the bone the fish which Smilla sometimes gives him. He is afraid of heights. When his body is found in the snow, it seems a tragic accident — he was exploring the roof of the building; he slipped. But Smilla knows about snow, and she knows about Isaac, and his terrors. She sees footprints, she works things out.

What follows is an extraordinary quest, filled with danger, violence and mortal dread. Addressing the reader in a deadpan present tense, in prose which electrifyingly fuses the laconic and the poetic, Smilla moves through a sinister city in winter. Light spills from doorways on to

snow, dark figures appear at the end of unlit passageways, cranes tower over deserted demolition sites. Smilla, enraged and unrelenting, confronts corruption and concealment, finding an occasional gleam of goodness and, unexpectedly, almost in passing, love. But the redeeming power of sexual passion is not what this book is about. Hoeg is too original a writer to offer solace, or absolution: this is a metaphysical thriller whose themes include — let there be no mistake — the limitless power of evil.

The book is divided into two: *The City and The Sea*. In the second, Smilla is on a ship bound for the Arctic ice-cap off Greenland. Where exactly are they headed for, amid this desolate beauty? Who, or what, is also on board? It is here

that Hoeg continues to explore themes raised earlier: the exploitation of an innocent environment by the scientist whose knowledge we crave "because the world is inscrutable" but whose strivings are insignificant in the face of the terrible power of the natural world.

There's too much resistance in the ice. It doesn't make any sense to try to conquer it... At this moment I can feel how the sea wants to close in, how it's merely a coincidental, passing constellation of water, wind and current that allows us to continue... Hoeg was once a dancer. He knows about bodies. With the exquisite precision of both scientist and artist he exposes a secret erotic silt and the silt to the bone made by a gleaming scalpel. He is a radical, exploring through intellect and European cultures the gulf between knowledge and intuition, experience and understanding, microscope and myth. In this, his second novel, he has, above all shown himself to be writer of real stature — admirably served by his English translator.

Realising that the youthful innocence and enthusiasm that forms the core of their relationship will inevitably dissolve within the confines of their local opportunities, two men set out to build a life in Hong Kong. The Englishman Timothy Marquand, and his American friend, Daniel Drews, believe that there "vows could be fulfilled by sheer willpower" and "the Chinese seamy like there is no tomorrow". Tomorrow is exactly what these men would avoid, and they combat it with elastic nights and endless beer in Marquand's dark rooms, where the spirit of their student days in London is enshrined.

To share their precious hedonism, Drews finds a Japanese wife, the inscrutable marble-faced Miki, and Marquand, an Oriental catamite, and together they successfully establish a new journal, *Orientweek*. While Drews realises his journalistic poten-

Standing tall for France

Churchill called him "the Monster of Harpstead" in 1942. Roosevelt called him "a nut". Yet, whatever the fury de Gaulle excited in his lifetime, his historical reputation is now on a level with all these detractors. In France he has become a national legend. A recent poll asking which Frenchman best represented the tradition of the French Revolution put de Gaulle far in front of the field — a paradoxical judgment upon a Catholic soldier of conservative disposition.

This fascination extends across the Channel as this book by the Labour peer Charles Williams demonstrates. It is the third to appear in English on de Gaulle in as many months. Williams hints in his introduction that current changes in Europe make a reevaluation timely. While this might be true, his book does not really offer this. Rather it sets out to narrate the life and describe the man.

De Gaulle's three greatest achievements were, first, to ensure that France ended the war among the victorious powers and with its great

power status recognised; secondly, to disentangle France from Algeria without either civil war or a military coup; thirdly, to provide France, for the first time since 1789, with an effective constitution which commands universal support. About the second two achievements there can be little dispute. Of the first, however, it could be said that the Western

allies would anyway have built France up again after the war. Churchill claimed that "de Gaulle only makes faces at the Allies who are doing all the work". This was true, but only because de Gaulle, lacking the means to contribute to the war against Germany, directed his energy to ensuring France's interests were respected by the Allies — and rudeness was often his only weapon. If Roosevelt had had his way, liberated France at the end of the war would have been run by an American military government.

The two guiding principles

of de Gaulle's career were the greatness of France — his "certain idea of France" — and the need for a strong state. Hence his lapidary comment on the president of France in 1940: "As chief of state he lacked two things. He was not a chief, and there was no state."

As for de Gaulle's "certain idea of France", it is possible to take the view that he exaggerated the influence of France and pursued an outdated nationalism, that ambitions for grandeur were delusions of grandeur. But in fact

ambition was tempered by a strong dose of realism as reflected in his famous remark to Malraux: "My only rival is Tintin! We are the small who refuse to allow ourselves to be cheated by the big. Only no one notices because of my size."

It is precisely this combination of ambition and realism, of mystical 19th-century nationalism and 18th-century

Julian Jackson

THE LAST GREAT FRENCHMAN
By Charles Williams
Little Brown, £25

Sublime India in plastic shoes

tial by throwing himself into it. Marquand becomes increasingly sensitive to the approach of the future ("an icy, airless bleak"), and proceeds to drink himself to death. His liberated spirit declares itself the narrator early in the novel, an unnecessary device which is mercifully kept to a minimum in the telling of this tale.

With the death of his friend, Drews himself begins to flounder. His relationship with his wife has soured since the breakdown of a curious sexual triangle between themselves and a young Filipino. He is also in danger of losing his magazine, as two loathsome shysters, Nick and Fran Naversen, are plotting to sell *Orientweek* to Time. To do so,

Sunetra Gupta

THE THOUSAND HEADED SNAKE
By Anthony Spaeth
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99

they require the signature of a depraved old man. Evan Olcott.

Olcott lures Drews to India with the promise of Marquand's diaries, and then reveals to him the seamy underside of India, the thousand-headed snake. Drews's innocence equips him to see India as a child might, to absorb the images without seeking to invest each with a spurious spirituality. In India

Drews becomes Christ in the desert, the ultimate innocent, who suffers to understand the values and the limitations of his innocence, and leaves empty-handed.

It is Drews's personal odyssey that keeps us on our toes, rather than the empty gymnastics of the plot surrounding the siege of *Orientweek*. This journey of innocence is delivered appropriately with a still-ed schoolboyish candour, and unwieldy classical metaphors.

Despite this occasionally tedious style the book remains a refreshingly honest piece of work. It is a heartfelt warning that even those who come to the exotic may simply end up hitting their heads against a wall of tawdry images. "That's India, my boy," says Olcott. "The great surface. Durable. Extremely durable. Plastic shoes — did you notice, by any chance the popularity of plastic shoes?"

Paradise lost but not regained

Ann Oakley's latest novel is an essay in the pastoral genre, that idealisation of rural life which has often been linked with myths of a golden age, when men and women lived in harmony with nature. Its heroine, Flora Penfold, leaves her smart London life to find Edenic bliss in the country: her cottage garden even has statues of Adam and Eve and a dangerous apple tree.

Predictably Flora discovers the serpent. Fifteen years earlier, a nearby reservoir had flooded whole villages, obliterating the personal histories of their inhabitants. Ever since the human fertility of the region has plummeted as though the careless destruction of the past makes it impossible to move forward into the future. In Flora's village, women of childbearing age are subjected to cruel hoaxes and relationships have gone awry: there is incest, transvestism, wife-beating and, finally, murder.

Oakley seems very wary of the emotive power of her themes: creativity, continuity, paradise and its loss. Her dry, objective narrative keeps the characters at a distance throughout, except in the lyrical

Karen Armstrong

SCENES ORIGINATING IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN
By Ann Oakley
HarperCollins, £14.99



Oakley: pastoral idyll torn between thought and feeling

cal passages which give the novel its resonance. In her evocations of the submerged villages, she eloquently conveys the desolation of irrevocable loss and her exuberant descriptions of the countryside skillfully suggest "something pre-modern, anti-rational and magical" at its heart.

Yet Oakley seeks rational, modern explanations. She introduces a *diabolus ex machina* to account for events which had their own internal dynamic. The superimposed solution is not only redundant but trivialises all that has gone before, draining the story of its timeless implications and making it depend on quirky, particular circumstances.

Again, the imagery is not allowed to speak for itself but is exhaustively expounded by Flora's mentor, the village psychoanalyst, who cites Freud, Jung, Karen Horney et

al to validate symbolism which had worked perfectly well on a tacit, intuitive level. Hammering it home in this way makes it appear academic and artificial; it also introduces a rift between thought and feeling which is especially damaging in a novel about primal unity.

The pastoral genre declined during the Romantic period,

when Keats warned against an "irritable straining after facts and reason". Oakley could have profited from this: her novel does seem to have a palpable design upon us, which neutralises its power.

Karen Armstrong's *The End of Silence: Women and Priesthood* is published next week by Fourth Estate.

Possessed by the devils of envy

Peter Paterson

WHITTAKER CHAMBERS: The Secret Confession
By E.J. Worth
Mazzard Books, £9

Although the cold war may be over, some of its engagements are still being fought with unabated ferocity. One of these is the affair of Alger Hiss, the State Department official and secretary-general at the founding conference of the United Nations, who was disgraced and imprisoned after being accused of spying for the Soviet Union.

Hiss, who is 89 and has long outlived his accuser, Whittaker Chambers, always denied the charge of treason. Now new evidence has emerged to support him. Last November, a former head of the Soviet intelligence services, General Dmitri Volkogonov, announced that "never and nowhere" had Hiss been recruited as a Soviet agent. Nor could he find evidence that Hiss was a party member, unlike Whittaker Chambers who was a member of the American Communist Party in the 1930s.

Further, the Russians could find no proof that Chambers had ever, as he claimed, been engaged in espionage activities on behalf of the Soviet Union. This finding will have come as no surprise to Miss Worth, whose entire thesis is based on the belief that Chambers was a liar and a fantasist.

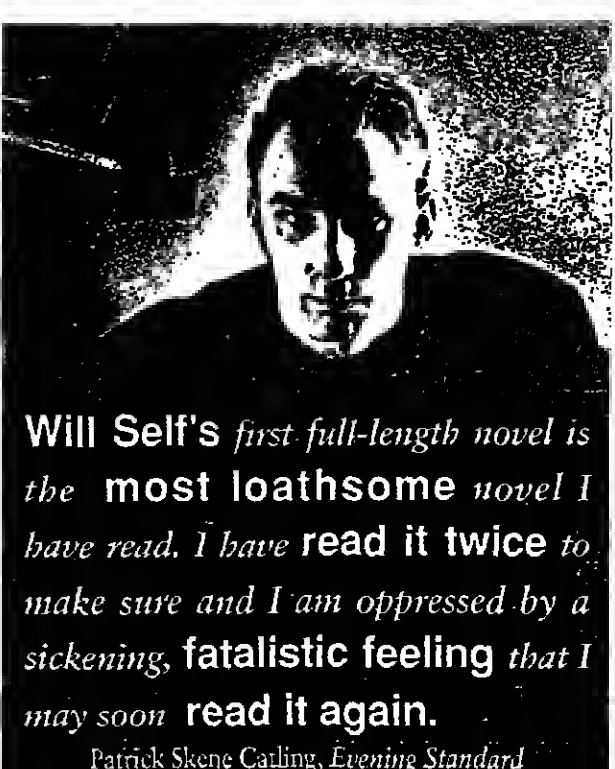
Worth concludes that Chambers suffered an intolerable burden of envy towards the able, handsome and successful Hiss, who became the vehicle for the expression of his paranoid fantasies, shaped in part by an unhappy childhood, the suicide of his younger brother, his expulsion from university, and his homosexual proclivities. She calls to her aid extensive exegesis of the works of Dostoevsky, plus

Chambers's own autobiographical writings and translations (the rendered *Bambj* from the German), the evidence he gave to the Un-American Activities Committee and to individuals in the US government, and his public testimony on oath in the course of Hiss's two trials for perjury.

There is independent evidence that Chambers was obsessed by Dostoevsky's life and his writings. His own descriptions of the spy network he allegedly ran in Washington in the 1930s paralleled in an extraordinary way the revolutionary group described by Dostoevsky in his novel, *The Possessed*, a book he read many times. Indeed Worth has uncovered numerous examples in Chambers's descriptions of his own life which echo Dostoevsky to the point of plagiarism.

In this book Hiss himself has only a walk-on part in the central drama of his accuser's troubled life. Tantalisingly, because certain records are still withheld, Worth strongly hints that Chambers did not die of a heart attack but — like Nicholas Stavrogin, the pariah, part-villain of *The Possessed* — took his own life.

Peter Paterson has interviewed Alger Hiss and written about his case. E.J. Worth's book is available by post from 46 Sussex Court, London W2 1JF.



Will Self's first full-length novel is the most loathsome novel I have read. I have read it twice to make sure and I am oppressed by a sickening, fatalistic feeling that I may soon read it again.

Patrick Skene Catling, *Evening Standard*

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BLOOMSBURY

Putting the profits into people

Companies setting out to ensure that staff are professionally qualified are finding they are better able to endure recessionary pressures

Insurance relies heavily on people, so it is no surprise to find that Tony Miller, training officer at Fribell Financial Services, is one of the keenest advocates of management training.

Fribell is one of Britain's biggest insurance brokers, offering personal financial planning and banking services, and employing 1,600 people in Bournemouth.

Mr Miller joined in 1991, when Fribell embarked on a Management Charter Initiative (MCI) programme. He says: "We realised that as a company we had strong technical expertise. But it was gained at the expense of formal management training. We wanted to ensure that all staff were professionally qualified as well."

He admits that most managers were "not best pleased" with the proposal to give them formal training. One told him: "I am an experienced manager and I don't relish the prospect of jumping through management hoops."

But once the programme started, all the managers saw the benefits.

Hamish McKay, the chief executive, says: "I don't think it is possible for management accountants to give us an accurate financial measure of the advantages of our MCI programme. I do know I expected at least half a million pounds worth of benefit from

it. I approved the programme on that expectation and I'm certain it was the correct decision to take."

Operating in an intensely competitive market, Fribell increased profits 40 per cent last year and is investing 10 per cent of the money in training. It employs four trainers and calls on 12 in-house specialists. Last year, 67 per cent of management staff were taking formal courses leading to NVQs and

this year the figure rose to 85 per cent.

The company intends to give staff the power to deal with 95 per cent of customer enquiries at the first point of contact, an objective that will demand further training for two-thirds of the staff. Mr Miller says: "During recession, businesses ask themselves how they can cut

costs. They think of training first, instead of making themselves better able to cope with recession and move forward."

Equally enthusiastic but within the public sector is Michael Richard, chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He says: "If we are to do better, it requires above all for staff to

be valued, for staff to be involved and for staff to be given the support, the skills and the competence to succeed."

The social security department agency was started in 1991. With offices in most towns throughout the country, its activities involve paying a wide range of benefits and pensions. The agency has this year launched NVQ schemes. The 1,700 taking part are the lucky ones. Another 4,000 would have

has always been there, but it has been latent.

"There are not enough skilled managers in the Civil Service because it has been dominated by policymakers rather than managers. We need to find good managers and train them."

"You do not have to make a profit for management training to be relevant. Performance is more difficult to measure, but managers in the public sector are increasingly being held to targets."

Response from staff shows it is not only the management candidates themselves who improve their performance. Staff outside the current programme pick up methods and checklists from colleagues who are involved and can put them to practical effect.

Quality is the strength

Efficient management depends on the capability of supervisors who have to see that the work is done

MCI has reached a watershed. Having concentrated its efforts on front line management, it is now ready to concentrate on raising standards in the higher echelons.

It was appointed by the government in 1990 as the body responsible for the development of national standards of performance for all managers and supervisors. Initially, it created and tested generic standards for first line managers and middle managers, then moved on to supervisory managers. Standards for senior managers and quality managers have been developed over the past few months. All standards are continually appraised.

Sir Bob Reid, MCI's chairman, felt it was important to start with the lowest strata of management rather than cardboard executives. "I wanted us to concentrate on

where the numbers are, not on the elite," he says. "Management depends totally on how the activity is handled at the coal face. The quality of management depends on the strength and capability of the supervisors who see that the work is done."

Andrew Summers, chief executive of MCI, agrees. "We have concentrated on the forgotten managers, the ones who have been least training," he says. "Yet they are the ones who have most idea of whether the company runs well or not."

The process of creating a standard is complex. It involves extensive research, asking detailed questions of thousands of managers to identify the key roles, the levels of performance employers expect and the knowledge, understanding and levels of effectiveness managers need to perform competently.

The management standards



Simon Pring, a solicitor enjoying broader responsibilities of voluntary work at Oasis Children's Venture garden

framework is based on four key functions: managing operations, finance, people and information. It measures how well a manager performs a range of specified tasks within each function.

Mr Summers says: "They form a model of best practice. Our management standards are accepted nationally as benchmarks for assessing competent performance. They are a crucial tool in improving management effectiveness. Many companies, both large and small, are seeing the benefits of formalising man-

agement performance." He says the standards can help to link individual performance with company objectives, to draw up job descriptions and to implement quality programmes. They can also form the basis of appraising staff for promotion.

"The concept of crediting competence was developed and refined over a two-year test period at 13 pilot centres," he says. "It differs from traditional methods in recognising that performance in the workplace is as important as knowledge and understanding."

"The major benefits of national and Scottish vocational qualifications are that candidates are assessed on performance at the workplace and not on examinations."

He sees the training that MCI encourages as complementary to the MBA courses. "A lot of management training is ad hoc on the job, but there is a whole variety of ways to learn over the lifetime of a manager," he says.

"They need to work on projects, perhaps do voluntary work. Often activities outside the organisation can be good

in improving a young manager's skills, with opportunities for greater responsibility. As Simon Pring, a solicitor, discovered, voluntary work can also provide a fast track to the top. Managers need to know what to aim for."

"There has not been, until now, any way of putting everything together into an overall picture to compare standards and identify the gaps in their experience."

● The Management Charter Initiative, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Sq, London WC1B 5BZ (0891 610999).

How business can benefit from training

A survey has found that efficiency and productivity are improving

Despite the harsh economic climate, organisations are trying not to sacrifice their training programmes, a survey conducted by BMJ Research and Consultancy has found.

Clear business benefits, including higher profits, were reported by 62 per cent of companies that paid attention to management training. The survey was carried out on behalf of the MCI with funding from the department of employment.

The percentage of companies with a formal system of management training was 53

per cent, compared with 51 per cent in a similar survey in 1992. Larger employers are still more likely to develop their managers - three-quarters of those employing more than 500 staff said they had a training programme, while only 47 per cent did in the 21 to 100 employees band.

BMJ interviewed 510 companies in an identical cross-section to the 1992 survey and asked the same questions. The

aim was to examine the levels of management training and development being undertaken and to understand attitudes towards training.

It found that organisations with a training programme had stepped up the amount of training and many intended a further extension.

The survey showed a considerable shift in the perception of the benefits from training management and supervisors,

with a substantial increase in those spontaneously mentioning improved efficiency or productivity (up from 37 per cent to 47 per cent), better motivated staff (up from 10 per cent to 25 per cent) and improved quality of work (up from 8 per cent to 24 per cent).

On the negative side, however, the survey showed that 47 per cent of organisations still do not have formal management training schemes. The main reason is that companies believe that they are too small, an excuse put forward by 42 per cent compared with only 33 per cent in the 1992 survey. An increasing number, 25 per cent compared with 20 per cent in 1992, claimed that staff are trained on the job.

Others believe they already

employ ready-trained staff (13 per cent, down from 14 per cent), or they do not believe that training is necessary.

Surprisingly, only 10 per cent complained that manage-

ment training was too costly. The survey concludes that: "Staff training and development is progressively being seen as a mainstream business activity."

MANAGEMENT/TRAINING BENEFITS

| Year | 1992 | 1993 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|
| Number in sample | 636 | 510 |
| Main mentions: | | |
| Improved efficiency/productivity | 37% | 47% |
| Better qualified staff | 31% | 27% |
| Better motivated staff | 10% | 25% |
| Improved quality work | 8% | 24% |
| Greater company profit | 10% | 12% |
| Improved communication skills | 6% | 10% |
| Better awareness of company needs | 6% | 9% |
| No real benefits | 6% | 5% |
| Any mention of: | | |
| Improved efficiency/quality/profit | 47% | 62% |

Source: MCI

"DO MORE WITH LESS"

The daily challenge for local government is to 'do more with less', and with this in mind many local authorities will have looked at Crediting Competence. Attracted by the significant potential savings it offers through a workplace-focused approach to management qualification.

The Local Government Management Board, recognising this level of interest, has responded by establishing a small network of interested organisations who would both offer a service to local authorities and develop a national approach to its provision. Eighteen months later there is a wealth of proven expertise within the network. The Local Government Crediting Competence Network has recently welcomed a further four Local Authorities who are setting up their own centres with the advice and support of the LGMB Crediting Competence team.

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- "Selecting a Centre" - how to ensure that your needs are met within quality standards when using an external provider of Crediting Competence.
- "Creating your own Centre" - we can advise on:
 - assessment and verification requirements
 - applying to the awarding body of your choice
 - marketing the service within your authority

Free leaflets and guides, and full technical details (based on successful centre applications) can also be provided.

Contact the LGMB Crediting Competence team:

Advisers: Arthur Bartram, Philip Hughes and David Tanner.
Manager: Keith Henfrey, Administrator: Cathy Lock.

The Local Government Management Board
Arndale House, Arndale Centre, LUTON LU1 2TS.
Phone: 0582-451166
Fax: 0582-412525

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT BOARD
promoting better practice

A QUICK GUIDE TO BOSSES

Matters of style

MANAGERS are often not as good as they think they are - at least, not in the eyes of their staff. When Hay Management Consultants undertook a study for the Trent Regional Health Authority, it looked at a range of management styles, from "do it the way I tell you" to "I'll do it myself".

Hay found there were pros and cons of all the management styles, which included:

● **Affiliative.** Bosses who put people first and tasks second are ineffective when subordinates are inadequate, failing to give clear direction.

● **Democratic.** Allowing subordinates to participate in decision-making is all very well with competent staff but in a crisis there is no time to discuss options.

● **Pacesetter.** The do-it-yourself manager provides little sense of direction and subordinates are given little scope to develop.

● **Coaching.** The manager helps or shows subordinates how to improve their performance and develop professionally. This fails if the manager lacks expertise or if subordinates are not good enough to work without direction.

This method of managing is useless where staff need to take the initiative or innovate, such as with higher-level technical and professional staff in research and development or sales organisation.

● **Authoritative.** Giving directions tactfully but firmly

goes down well with subordinates if the person giving the orders is an expert or has status. The authoritative manager listens to other people's ideas but leaves no doubt as to who makes the decisions. This type of manager fails if he or she stifles subordinates or does not have the status to carry off the role.

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If you think the new National Occupational Standards produced by the MCI, and the NVQs derived from them might benefit your organisation, call Paul Cook or Karen Thomson of the Surrey NVQ Advisory Service on:

0483 728190

Amongst other things we can help you:

- identify appropriate standards for your business,
- identify training needs,
- identify local training and assessment provision,
- provide briefings for staff at your premises,
- produce an action plan for going forward,
- contact our Investors in People team.



Surrey NVQ Advisory Service is a service of
Surrey Training & Enterprise Council, Technology House,
48-54 Goldsmith Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 1LE.

Marseilles stripped of domestic league title

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN MONTE CARLO

THE French Football Federation (FFF) yesterday stripped Marseilles of the league title they won last season, and also banned three players because of allegations that Marseilles and Valenciennes were involved in a match-fixing scandal in May.

In a further move in the controversy, FFF, the world governing body, announced here that Marseilles, already banned from defending the European Cup, would also be prevented from taking part in both the Intercontinental Cup and the Super Cup.

"One can even foresee that it will in future be difficult, if not impossible, for Marseilles to take part in any international match, even a friendly," Sepp Blatter, the FFF general secretary, said. He did not specify how long this would last.

The FFF, which had been threatened with suspension from all international football unless it took sanctions against Marseilles by today, has banned three of the four players allegedly involved in the scandal. Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruchaga, of Valenciennes, and Jean-Jacques Eydelie, of Marseilles, Jacques Glassmann, the Valenciennes player who first made allegations of bribery, was not suspended. All the sanctions are provisional, pending a court case.

The Valenciennes players have admitted that attempts were made to bribe them before the league match on May 20 which Marseilles won 1-0, so taking an important step towards winning their fifth successive league title. Six days later, Marseilles became the first French club to win the European Cup, which the Paris daily sports paper, *L'Equipe*, invented in 1955, by defeating AC Milan 1-0.



Tapie: no sanction

Jean-Pierre Bernès, the Marseilles general manager, who was allegedly involved in the attempt to bribe the Valenciennes players, has also been suspended, pending a court case. "We had to take sanctions in this affair, which has seriously harmed the morality of our sport," Jean Fourrier-Fayard, the FFF president, said.

Bernès and Bernard Tapie, the socialist politician, businessman and Marseilles president, against whom no action was taken, have repeatedly protested the club's innocence. The FFF also said it was considering whether Marseilles should be permitted to play in the French Cup this season.

Bernès, who burst into tears on Tuesday after being interviewed during the enquiry, said: "My life is hell, my life has been wrecked. I have repeated what I have been saying for four months. I do not know what else I should do or say. There is only suicide left to prove that this business has got nothing to do with me."

Bernès will soon return to hospital for psychiatric treatment because he is suffering from the traumatic effect of the biggest scandal in French football history.

Jean-Louis Leveau, the Marseilles vice-president, said that it was a "positive thing" that sanctions had been taken pending a court decision, but added: "I feel sorry for the players, who for the moment have been deprived of the title they won on the pitch."

He also defended Bernès. "Nobody does little more than achieving survival," he said. "It is hard to imagine any team in it taking the Premiership by storm next season."

Middlebrough began as if they were going to have that effect on the first division and they possess players able to erase what Lawrence, 45, called his biggest disappointment, last May.

Would he stay or leave, Teesside wondered this summer. But Lawrence, who likes village life in the Cleveland countryside with his wife, Lynn, signed a new one-year contract. His position has been strengthened by the accession of Steve Gibson, an admirer of the articulate Lawrence, to club chairman.

Gibson questioned Lawrence about the wisdom of selling Alan Kernaghan, the Ireland international central defender, to Manchester City for £1.6 million after rejecting earlier offers. It seemed smart business though. You cannot imagine City selling the player on for anything like that sum.

Lawrence said: "Those who are on the up and up and people I can trust. I don't want anyone with three or four clubs behind them who sees us as an addition to the collection. I need players who can do well in the Premiership."

Lawrence's eyes light up at the mention of his name and you sense he would like to keep him permanently protected behind Kirklevington's security forces. The message to interested managers like Gracie Souness, of Liverpool, is look but do not touch.

Many managers would like to acquire Paul Wilkinson, the Middlesbrough centre forward, and Everton have had a bid of £1.1 million rejected. Few target men hold the ball up as well.

And few midfield players compete as keenly as Jamie Pollock. The England youth international is much more than a destroyer and the grown-up version might just be Stockton's version of Bryan Robson.

Teesside through and through, Pollock plans to stay put at Ayresome Park. As does John Hendrie. Relocated from wide to a more central striking role, he has pledged similar loyalty.

Lawrence plans for long-term

Louise Taylor finds Middlesbrough's manager striving for a place of security in the Premiership

Most mornings Lennie Lawrence drives the short distance to Kirklevington prison. The Middlesbrough manager waits to be let in and hears the gates locked behind him before supervising his squad in training.

Later, Lawrence and his players are released to continue a Endsleigh Insurance League first division promotion campaign that began with four victories but has been tempered by two defeats and a draw.

Lawrence partly attributes this blip to an "attitude thing" and it is no secret that in previous seasons some Middlesbrough players have proved to be a little temperamental.

Anything but a prima donna, Lawrence is a good man to persuade his squad that ability must be married to application and where better to concentrate their minds than a prison.

Lack of concentration — their defence was in the habit of clocking off early — cost Middlesbrough their Premier League place last season. Relegation extended a sequence that has seen the club involved in promotion or demotion tussles every year for the past ten.

Between permanent training grounds they may be, but Middlesbrough need to stop playing y-y-y. "I don't want us to be one of those teams like West Ham that is always in limbo land," Lawrence said.

Describing the gulf between the leading two divisions as "enormous", Lawrence sees Swindon and West Ham struggling and Newcastle doing little more than achieving survival. "And look at the first division," he said. "It is hard to imagine any team in it taking the Premiership by storm next season."

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Lawrence, who has money to spend in Middlesbrough's quest for promotion

Believing that promotion to the top drawer will soon be restricted to one club per season, Lawrence knows it is imperative for Middlesbrough to return and to stay up. The Premiership would prove the perfect stage for the likes of Alan Moore, 18, a left winger who is the talk of Teesside.

Lawrence's most serious test will come when he spends the cash from the sale of Kernaghan. "I want players who have got something to prove," he said. "Those who are on the up and up and people I can trust. I don't want anyone with three or four clubs behind them who sees us as an addition to the collection. I need players who can do well in the Premiership."

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Salinas's hat-trick too much for weak Albania

THREE goals by Julio Salinas, the Barcelona forward, helped Spain beat Albania 5-1 in Tirana yesterday and keep their hopes of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup finals alive.

Spain began the group three game trailing Ireland by four points and Denmark by three, and needing a win to stay in with a chance of getting to United States.

Salinas opened the scoring as early as the fourth minute when, despite being surrounded by four Albanian defenders, he managed to slip the ball beneath the diving body of the goalkeeper, Foto Strakosha.

Antonio Munoz made it 2-0 in the eighteenth minute with a 15-yard shot after a header by Salinas had rebounded off the crossbar.

Salinas had better luck 12 minutes later when Munoz centred and the Barcelona forward headed home.

Albania, while tenacious in defence, lacked penetration early in the game but improved as the half wore on and went close with shots from Ylli Shehu and Sokol Kushta in the 36th and 37th minutes.

Five minutes before half-time, Kushta reduced the deficit when he gathered a long pass and lobbed over the stranded goalkeeper, Zubizarreta, to make it 3-1.

The home side opened the second half well with Kushta firing a shot went inches wide of the Spanish goal. But Salinas dealt a punishing blow in the 58th minute when he broke free down the centre and pushed the ball between Strakosha's legs to complete his hat-trick.

Ten minutes later, Cammery, playing only his second international, made it 5-1, heading home after a goalmouth scramble.

Albania, bottom of their group, were without two leading players in Sulejman Demollari, injured, and Alfin Raklli, who was not selected as punishment for missing the match against Denmark last month.

The poverty in the Balkan country meant the players had to drop the post-match ritual of exchanging shirts because of a shortage.

To qualify from the group, Spain still need positive results from their final two matches against Ireland in Dublin and Denmark in Seville.

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Clark plans to sign Wright as Forest rebuild

NOTTINGHAM Forest yesterday agreed a fee of £450,000 with Newcastle United for their Northern Ireland international goalkeeper, Tommy Wright. Providing Forest can agree personal terms with the player, he is expected to sign for the club before the weekend.

The way was cleared for Wright, 29, to leave St James' Park on Tuesday when Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, completed the signing of Liverpool's reserve goalkeeper, Mike Hooper, for £500,000.

Frank Clark, the Forest manager, is also considering a move for the Norwegian international, Lars Bohinen, 24. Clark flew to Norway yesterday to watch the mid-field player in last night's World Cup qualifying tie with Poland.

Jeroen Boer, the Dutch forward, yesterday became the latest part in West Ham United's rebuilding project. Boer, an under-21 and B international, will cost only £250,000 from Go Ahead Eagles Deventer.

Jeroen has signed a three-year contract subject to medical and international clearance. Peter Storr, the West Ham managing director, said: "He has been on trial for a week and last night scored twice in the reserves against Arsenal. He's a big strong lad and looked impressive."

Last week, West Ham signed David Burrows and Mike Marsh from Liverpool in exchange for Julian Dicks and also brought the experienced forward, Lee Chapman, to Upton Park from Portsmouth. The signings paid an instant three-point dividend when West Ham beat Blackburn Rovers 4-0 at Ewood Park in the Premiership last Saturday.

Chapman also cost £250,000 and the arrival of Boer — he hopes to be registered in time for Saturday's game at Newcastle — represents more value-for-money. That had to be an essential ingredient in any deal, with the club engaged in building a new 8,000-seat stand.

Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, will make his first appearance of the season in the FA Cup Premiership at Oldham on Saturday.

The Australia international lost his place to Nigel Spink at the start of the season because of a one-match ban imposed by Fifa, the game's world governing body, after he refused to play for his country in a World Cup qualifying play-off game against Canada.

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Wright relishes lead role as Arsenal steal spotlight

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PUT an Arsenal shirt on his back and Ian Wright is the most dangerous predator in English football. Replace it with an England shirt and he is just another footballer. On Tuesday night, Wright was an Arsenal player and at his instinctive, intuitive best. There was nothing Huddersfield Town could do to hurt him back and applaud.

Wright scored three of Arsenal's five goals in a one-sided Coca-Cola Cup second-round first-leg tie at Leeds Road, an exhibition of finishing skills that had the Yorkshire audience enthralled from start to finish. He was not the difference between the cup-holders and the underdogs from the Endsleigh Insurance League second division — the gap between the two sides was too great for that — but he was the problem that Huddersfield singularly failed to solve.

He opened the scoring after just three minutes and, after Campbell and Merson had put the issue beyond doubt before the hour was up, notched his second with an exquisite chip and his third shortly before the end.

"He is fantastic, isn't he?", George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said afterwards. "Time after time, he comes up with special goals."

Neil Warnock, Graham's opposite number at Huddersfield, went further: "Wright's finishing was magnificent. I found myself clapping his second goal before I realised I was the opposition manager. It is back to the drawing board for me because Wright is so exciting and Arsenal are first-class. I just wish he could perform like it for England."

brought his total to 66 in 90 games for Arsenal since his move across London from Crystal Palace, yet he has managed just one goal in 15 outings with England.

His was not the only outstanding performance on a rare night's football. There were four other hat-tricks in the Coca-Cola Cup second-round first-leg games, with Craig Hignett, of Middlesbrough, the most impressive individual performer. He scored four goals in the first half against Brighton at Ayresome Park, including three in a five-minute spell shortly before half-time, that all but booked Middlesbrough a place in the third round with the second leg still to come.

John Hendrie completed the 5-0 scoreline after the break. Paul Rideout scored three of Everton's goals in their dramatic 4-3 at Lincoln City, scoring the winner with just five minutes left, and Pat Nevin helped himself to a treble in Tranmere Rovers' 5-1 trouncing of Oxford United. John Aldridge scored the other

two goals. Stan Collymore scored all Nottingham Forest's goals in their 3-3 draw at Wrexham.

The night's biggest upset was Sheffield United's 3-0 defeat at Blackpool. Dave Bamber scoring twice and Andy Watson once, although Dave Bassett, the United manager, missed the match, preferring instead to go on a scouting mission elsewhere. His assistant, Geoff Taylor, summed up the performance thus: "We can't afford to play like that in the Premiership or we've had it — our defence was non-existent, we deserved everything we got."

Sunderland revived memories of their FA Cup victory in 1973 by beating Leeds United at Roker Park. Twenty years ago at Wembley, the score was 1-0; on Tuesday, it was 2-1. Phil Gray and Don Goodman firing Sunderland hope of completing another upset in the second leg.

While Wright was having a good night for Arsenal, his England striking partner, Les Ferdinand, was having a bad one for Queens Park Rangers. Although Ferdinand scored Rangers' opener in their 2-1 win at Barnet, he was criticised afterwards by the Rangers manager, Gerry Francis, who said: "He has still got a lot to learn. His marker got the better of him tonight."

Alan Shearer, waiting in the wings for an England recall, scored Blackburn Rovers' only goal in their 1-0 defeat of Bournemouth at Ewood Park. There were shirt troubles again for Sheffield Wednesday, who had to play Bolton Wanderers in their hosts' third strip because of a clash with the officials' kit. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.



Hignett: deadly

Barnwell to take over from Chard

NORTHAMPTON Town yesterday dismissed Phil Chard, their player-manager. Chard, 32, has been asked to remain as a player but is likely to make a clean break from Northampton — bottom of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division and without a win this season after eight league and cup matches.

The general manager, John Barnwell, the former Notts County, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Walsall manager, will take over team affairs.

Barry Stothill, the senior director, said: "We have taken the decision with regret and it's not something we have enjoyed doing. Phil has been a good servant to this club. Something had to be done after our start to the season and our options were somewhat limited. Hopefully, John can get more out of the players."

Rade Ognanovic, who led Cameroon into the 1982 World Cup finals, has been hired to coach the Chinese Olympic team for at least two years, press reports in Peking said yesterday.

China have failed in their two attempts to qualify for the World Cup and did not play in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Jackson leads Hibernian into final

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DARREN Jackson scored against his former club to send Hibernian into the Scottish League Cup final after a thrilling semi-final at Tynecastle on Tuesday night.

Jackson, signed from Dundee United for £400,000 in July last year, hit a superb tenth-minute goal to put Hibernian in the final for the second time in three years.

The match was, however, marred by angry scenes at the finish as a scuffle broke out on the touchline involving several players from each side and some of the coaching staff. It was an unsavoury end to what had been a memorable tie.

Hibernian certainly looked the hungrier side in the opening stages and almost scored a

bizarre goal after three minutes, when an O'Neill cross was deflected by a defender towards the goal, forcing a fine save by Main, the United goalkeeper.

Main, though, was left with no chance seven minutes later when Jackson struck with a goal fit to win any semi-final. The lively McAllister beat Bolland and fed Jackson, who took the ball in his stride and drilled a low left-foot shot past Main from 20 yards.

The Edinburgh side almost scored a second in the eighth minute when it was awarded an indirect free-kick in the penalty area, but O'Neill's shot struck Van Der Horst, who was standing on the line.

Hibernian almost made it 2-0 in the 57th minute when Wright pounced on a flick from McAllister but his low shot was turned round the post by Main. A minute later, McLaren thought he had equalised when he guided a header towards the net, but Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, managed to keep the ball out with his right leg. Two further saves from Van Der Horst and Dally ensured the win.

The Hibernian manager, Alex Miller, singled out Leighton after the game: "I felt Jim there's no need for the players to be disappointed. A defeat like this is just part of the game and it's important that they lift their heads."

The United manager, Ivan Golac, said: "We were by miles the better side and there's no need for the players to be disappointed. A defeat like this is just part of the game and it's important that they lift their heads."

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TUESDAY'S FOOTBALL

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---|
| TELFORD 16.08 08 | (1) 3 SALVADORE Lode 69 | (1) 1 | FA CHALLENGE TROPHY: First qualifying round replays: Chorley 3, Whitley Bay 1; Harrogate 4, Shildon 2; Kinsley 7, Macclesfield 2; Salford 3, Wigan 1; Bradford 3, Alfreton 0; Yeading 2, Rotherham 0. |
| WELLING Hammers, 1.23 57 | (2) 2 KETTING Thrupp 86 | (1) 1 | DIVISION FOUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP: First round: Altrincham 0, Kinsley 4; Aylesbury 2, Chesham 1; (aet) Barnet 3, 0; St Albans 3, 0; Boreham Wood 3, 0; Chesham 1, 0; Macclesfield 3, 0; Chalfont 1, 0; St Peter 1, Layton 5; 0; Luton 3, 0; Harnet 2; Hendon 2; Boreham Wood 3; 0; Boreham Wood 3, 0; Boreham Wood 3 |

هكذا امن الرجل

RICHARD EVANS

Watson and Gallacher have much in common despite contrasting backgrounds

Integrity the byword for two captains of honour



John Hopkins compares the men who will lead the Ryder Cup teams into battle at The Belfry

CONSIDERING Tom Watson and Bernard Gallacher were born into different social backgrounds on different continents, they have a surprising amount in common.

Born within seven months of each other in 1949, one comes from an industrial, working-class town in Scotland and the other from a middle-class section of a town in the mid-west of the United States.

Not the least of their similarities is that their fathers both worked in insurance — Gallacher's selling policies for the Pru, Watson's insuring the homes and affairs of his friends at the Kansas City country club.

It is not that there is much that is American about Gallacher but, rather, that Watson, in some ways, is more British than the British. He is a traditionalist, one who understands that a purpose of golf is to test your honesty and integrity as much as your skill and courage. Play hard and play to the limit, but abide by the rules. That is Gallacher's creed, too.

The Scot was brought up in a hard school. So was Watson, who began playing golf with his father and his father's friends at the Kansas City country club. One of the men was known as Hook because he tended to. When young Watson found his ball in a bad lie, Hook would say sternly: "play it."

Of whom was this said: "He gives you the feeling that no matter how well you know him, you won't get a free drop unless it's correct?" The answer is Gallacher but it could just as easily have been Watson.

Who said: "Play the ball as it lies and if you can't, do what is fair and equitable?" The an-

swer is Watson but it might have been Gallacher.

Who said: "I am serious. I don't say much on the golf course. I am out there to concentrate and do my best. Basically I am a shy person. I am not out there to be a comedian." It was Watson but it could just as easily have been Gallacher.

Who said: "I wrote to him after his appointment, congratulated him and said we have a duty to make sure the match is played in the right spirit." It could have been Watson, because, in the past few months, he has talked a lot about the spirit of this event. In fact, it was Gallacher.

Let us imagine a dinner table set for Tom and Linda Watson and Bernard and Lesley Gallacher. Both men would be smartly dressed, Watson in the clothes of the American country club habit: blazer, chinos, buckskin shoes, a striped club tie and a button-down shirt. Gallacher would favour power-shouldered suits by a big-name designer, tasselled loafers, silk tie.

Watson would choose the wine for dinner. His older brother, Ridge, is in the wine trade in California. They would compare their children as parents always do — Meg and Michael Watson, 13 and 11, and Kirsty, Jamie and Laura Kate Gallacher, 17, 16 and 6. They might also comment on the length of their marriages — 18 years for the Gallachers, 20 for the Watsons.

Perhaps the men would reminisce about their Ryder Cup appearances — four for Watson compared with Gallacher's eight. Gallacher would probably want to forget their encounter in 1983, his last appearance and Watson's penultimate. Gallacher, one down with two holes to play and the match result depending on their encounter, lost the short 17th to a bogey four.

Soon though, the discussion would turn to politics. Gallacher is a Tory. "I voted Conservative at the last election. I think Mrs Thatcher is wonderful. She is one of us. I am a great supporter of hers."

Watson is said to have been the only American professional golfer to have voted Democrat but has lately switched to the Grand Old Party, the Republicans. "It's true what someone once said," Watson said. "If you are not a liberal when you are 18, you have no heart. If you are not a Conservative when you are 38, you have no brains."



Watson, whose preparation has been as rigorous as when capturing the coveted trophy two years ago

Gallacher talks in clean, crisp, no-nonsense sentences. Uttered in a gravelly voice, Watson is quieter yet intellectually more rigorous. He did, after all, get a degree in psychology from Stanford University and is one of the few American pro golfers who did not attend university on a golf scholarship.

His conversations can resemble his putting on a poor day, stuttering and meandering. He struggles to find the right word. Gallacher tells jokes. Watson tells stories. The wives are fierce in their support of their husbands. Watch Watson hole an important putt and the lady with the black hair and fiery eyes who applauds loudly and shouts

her support as she leaps from her shooting stick will be his wife, Linda.

Lesley Gallacher is no less loyal, though she is certainly less vocal. When a British golf writer suggested that Gallacher's eighth Ryder Cup was one appearance too many, he received one of the most robustly-phrased letters of his sporting life from Lesley Gallacher. These women obey Tammy Wynette: they stand by their men, these men who are so similar in many ways.

Gallacher, being born in an iron and steel town that was later the site of a BMC car plant, understands the nooks and crannies of Britain and the British. So does Watson.

During one Open he was spotted gazing for fish and chips. He dresses for dinner, has little difficulty in driving on the left and does not complain about warm beer nor a lack of air-conditioning.

"Tom loves Britain," Linda Watson has said. "He thinks the people are so courteous and polite to us in a way that, unfortunately, they are not at home." Watson once said to me: "Britain is the last civilised country."

Watson has prepared thoroughly for this venture into captaincy. He often talks of the need to learn from others. True to type, he has set about learning as much as he can about captaincy. He has read books and magazines, spoken

to his friends, players, journalists, coaches. Little has been left to chance, he has prepared as if it has been his life's work.

No less has been the work that Gallacher has put into it. He is driven by the recollection of losing to Watson in 1983. His will to win is no less than Watson's. It is significant that he has been asking those who know Watson well: "What is he like? How would he react in certain situations?"

The two men are personable and honest, full of integrity, liked and respected by their peers. They are worthy of the attention being paid to them. Not for the first time, golf has got it right.

Olympic champion denies drug claim

MIKE Stulce, the Olympic shot champion, has denied he took performance-enhancing drugs after an announcement by the International Amateur Athletic Federation that he had tested positive for steroids and faces a life ban. Stulce said yesterday he had been told he tested positive for Mestanolone, but he strongly denied he had taken the substance. Stulce, who said he had no explanation for the positive test, also said he would appeal the finding to USA Track and Field, the American governing body for the sport.

"We've checked with several different experts and they were confused and said there is no reference for it in the United States," Stulce said. "I don't feel guilty. I know I'm innocent."

The positive test came during the world championships last month in Stuttgart. Stulce had tested positive in 1990 and was suspended for two years then, so now faces a life ban.

Le Moignan advances

SQUASH: Martine Le Moignan and Lisa Opie, both from Guernsey, had mixed fortunes as they returned to action in the second round of the women's world open championships in Johannesburg yesterday (Colin McQuillan writes). Le Moignan, the former world champion, who at 30 is semi-retired, dispatched the Australian, Vicki Cardwell, 38, 9-1, 9-5, 9-4. Opie, also 30 and out for most of the past two seasons, came back from two games down against Suzanne Horner, the England No 1, before losing 9-3, 9-2, 4-9, 0-9, 9-7. Horner and Le Moignan now meet for a semi-final place, and Cassandra Jackman, the English champion, faces Rebecca O'Callaghan and Sue Wright plays Senja MacFie.

Doherty strikes back

SNOOKER: Ken Doherty produced the finest recovery of his professional career to beat James Wattana, of Thailand, 5-4, in the first round of the Royal Scottish Masters at Motherwell Civic Centre yesterday. When Wattana, the world No 5, established a 4-0 lead at the interval, he appeared certain of a quarter-final place. The turning-point came when Wattana went in-off a black near the end of the fifth frame. Doherty took the frame then won two on the black, and another on the pink. Terry Griffiths withdrew as his father has died and Nigel Bond was drafted in.

Court panel shatters

SQUASH: The Dubai Classic tournament was thrown into confusion yesterday after a panel of the all-glass court shattered during the night, leaving a gaping hole at the front of the court. A replacement panel was ordered but would not be ready until five hours after the scheduled start. The players were meeting to decide whether they would be willing to play at a venue where they had had no chance to practise. The sharply varying outside temperatures could have caused the floor to expand overnight, putting pressure on the glass.

Games make loss

WORLD STUDENT GAMES: The organisers of the World Student Games, which were held in Buffalo earlier this year, the first time the Games have taken place in the United States, lost at least \$3 million (about £2 million), the local organising committee reported yesterday. The Games chairman, Burt Flickinger, called the deficit "manageable" and noted that the deficit is "not that bad when compared to similar events". The previous Games, held in Sheffield in 1991, lost £12 million. However, the report showed that the Games have \$53 million in unpaid bills.

Le Mans signals switch

MOTOR SPORT: The Le Mans 24-hour race next year will be split into five categories, ranging from racing cars to luxury GT saloons, the organisers said in Paris yesterday. The first two sections cover single and two-seater sports cars, the Automobile Club de l'Ouest announced. The other three involve GT cars, either as single or two-seater prototypes or as production models. However, the success of the world sportscar championship and recent Le Mans races, the Peugeot 905s and Toyota TS010s, will not be on the starting grid on June 18 as new noise limits will be imposed.

Huddersfield appeal

RUGBY LEAGUE: Huddersfield, the world's oldest club, will tomorrow seek the approval of the High Court in Leeds for an administrator to help save it from closure after running up debts in excess of £500,000. An immediate demand for £38,000 from the Inland Revenue has brought the financial crisis to a head. More than half the debt is owed to directors and two former chairmen. The intention is to sell the club or try to bring in new backers in time for the move next season to a new £12 million 20,000-seat stadium, to be shared with Huddersfield Town football club.

Hare rejoins Leicester

RUGBY UNION: Dusty Hare, the former England full back, rejoined Leicester yesterday as an unpaid recruitment officer less than two months after being made redundant from his £25,000-a-year job as Nottingham's first director of rugby. Hare, who farms near Newark, retired four years ago after scoring a world-record 7,191 points, including 4,507 for Leicester. His return to Welford Road was welcomed by Leicester's director of rugby, Tony Russ, who said: "Dusty has a job to do for us and the one at which he is best. We are delighted to have him back."

Rugby enhanced by those who break mould

We live in an age of -isms: rugby union, reflecting the age, is no exception. The game's particular curse is size-ism: big is beautiful, so when chance permits you to stand next to a rugby legend such as Colin Meads and you begin to wonder whether his programmed height of 6ft 4in wasn't a slight exaggeration, inevitably you ponder how much headway he would have made against the Bayfields and Dooles of today.

The point about Meads and many of his type, though, was that if they were not tall by modern standards, they possessed all the skills. I watched a video of Meads the other day: ball clutched in one huge paw he ran and sidestepped magnificently, he supported his backs, he played the modern forward game 30 years ago and he was a lock at a time when the British tended to regard locks as fetchers and carriers.

Meads was an exceptional player: he and his colleagues set benchmarks, as New Zealanders have done so frequently, for the rest of the world. Indeed the rest of the world has now all but caught up and the leading countries expect their forwards to process all the skills: to play their trade at scrum and lineout but to feel comfortable with the ball in hand, to give and take a pass, to kick the ball as and when

required without the crowd giving vent to an awestruck gasp.

And what have the backs been doing all this while? Well, they have been getting bigger too, in fact many of them are beginning to resemble forwards. But have they grown in skill? Certainly they have become accustomed to mauling and rucking like flankers — Rugby Special last weekend showed Stuart Barnes hurling into a maul for Bath against Northampton in a way Barry John 20 years ago would never have considered.

But can they give and take a pass as their predecessors did? A fond memory of the last two years is of Dan



DAVID HANDS
Rugby Commentary

Doolley, now with London Irish but then playing centre for Saracens, doing everything right and because it was such a rare event it stays in the mind's eye: he took an awkward pass against Bristol, he registered the defence and he gave the ball to his wing at the precise moment. The result was a try and the move encapsulated all that rugby is supposed to be about.

Change the scene, step up several notches in class and move to Christchurch, New Zealand, last summer. The first international between New Zealand and the British Isles is remembered for Grant Fox's late penalty which enabled the All Blacks to escape with a 20-18 victory. Did Dean Richards offend at the ruck, should Fox have been given his chance? If the British backs had

performed the basics sufficiently well, it might not have mattered.

You could reasonably argue that that game, and perhaps the series, was lost when the Lions found space to run in their own half, against a defence that was poorly positioned, but their midfield players, all immensely experienced at playing under pressure, could not put the ball in front of the next man.

These and sundry other reflections were the result of a conversation with a former England coach, a pragmatic but imaginative man, over the composition of a modern back row. What, he asked rhetorically, were flankers

now required to do? They have to make big hits in the midfield, as do centres, and then they have to get up and make them again so that the second, and the third, and the fourth phase can happen before a chink of light appears and some fortunate back may have the chance to score a try.

The bigger the player, the bigger the hit and there is no doubt that such confrontations make riveting watching, of a gladiatorial kind. But skill? Courage, yes, but is there skill in knocking another player over rather than trying to make the ball work for you?

What about the challenge of a Jack-the-lad scrum half with the fresh-faced look of a David Kirk against a steam-rolling forward, what about the individuals of all shapes and sizes who make this such an individual game?

So three cheers for those who would break the modern mould, for the elegance of Jeremy Guscott, for the physically-challenged Neil Back, for the chronologically-challenged Jeff Probyn and long may they stick uncomfortable pins into selectors.

Law changes have taken rugby a long way down the road towards physical conformity and if Back is to succeed in winning an England cap or Probyn, at 37, to sustain his England career, both have to be more skilful than their rivals. And that is a quality to be prized.

Scotland turn to Bray in full back search

SCOTLAND have included Kent Bray, the Harlequins full back, in their squad for the first training session of the season at Murrayfield on Sunday in preparation for the tour by New Zealand (Alan Lorimer writes). Bray, an Oxford blue in 1989, played for New South Wales against the British Isles in the same year and qualifies for Scotland through his Glasgow-born grandmother.

His selection represents a wider search for an eventual successor to Gavin Hastings. Nick Grecian and Craig Redpath, who played respectively against Western Samoa and Tonga, have not been considered at this stage and, while Ken Logan, of Stirling County, who was at full back against Fiji, is included in the squad, he is more likely to be seen as a wing. Scotland's

other possibility at full back is Michael Dods, who gains his first recognition since returning from the Scotland tour of North America in 1991.

Not included in the squad is Derek Stark, who played in all of Scotland's five nations' matches last season. Also missing is Gary Armstrong, but in his case it is by choice. The Jed-Forest player having informed the Scottish Rugby Union that he does not want to be considered for selection at scrum half. In his absence, Andy Nicol, Bryan Redpath, Derek Patterson and David Millard represent strength in depth in the position.

Among the forwards, the absence of Andy Reed and Iain Morrison (both injured) give opportunities to Stuart Campbell, the young Dundee lock, and Nick Penny, the Stewart-Melville FP

flanker. Chances for selection at national or A level are also being given to John Amos, who is excelling for Gala on the open-side flank, and Murray Wallace, who took his chance on Scotland's tour to establish himself as an accomplished flanker.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: Backs: K Bray (Harlequins), C Christie (Rugby), M Dods (Colin), S Oliver (Rugby), P C Glasgow (Rugby), G Hastings (Worcesters), S Hastings (Worcesters), I Jardine (Stirling County), K Logan (Stirling County), R MacLennan (Northampton), O Millard (London Scottish), K Milligan (Stewart-Melville), P A Nicol (Dundee High School), S Nicol (Stirling), D Patterson (Edinburgh Academicals), S Redpath (Melrose), G Shaw (Melrose), A Stanger (Rugby), G Townsend (Gala), F Wallace (Gala), P Burnell (Glasgow), S Campbell (Dundee High School), D Gordin (London Scottish), J Hay (Rugby), C Hogg (Melrose), G Isaac (Gala), P Jones (Glasgow), A Macdonald (Rugby), P D Maxwell (Edinburgh Academicals), K Milne (Rugby), S Munro (Glasgow), N Penny (Stewart-Melville), A Sharp (Rugby), S Smith (Glasgow), O Turnbull (Rugby), R Watt (Glasgow), A Watt (Glasgow), S Watt (Glasgow), G West (Glasgow), G Wilson (Glasgow), P Wright (Boroughmuir).

Answers from page 48

MAGENTA (a) and (b) A brilliant red aniline dye derived from coal-tar, named in commemoration of the bloody battle of Magenta, when the Austrians were defeated by the French and Sardinians. This was just before the dye was discovered in 1859.

The French General MacMahon beat the Austrians. Poor old Franz Joseph managed to lose almost every battle he was ever engaged in. In a reign that lasted from 1848 to 1916 and included most conceivable tragedies for the emperor. It was the Battle of Solferino that ruled that the famous Austrian victory over the Italians took place in 1859, just after his death.

DAVENPORT TRICK (c) A trick by which a person can release himself when bound round and tied with rope. The term derives from the Davenport brothers, two American impostors & in 1841, who professed that spirits would untie them when bound with cords. Their imposition was exposed in 1865.

TALBOT (d) The name of a variety of hound, formerly used for tracking and hunting, a large white or light-coloured hound, having long hanging ears, heavy jaws, and great powers of scent, understood evidence is wanting. Chancer has Talbot as the name of an individual dog. "The same white hounds were brought to England by the head of the Talbot family, and rapidly gaining credit for their qualities in the chase of the stag were known as Talbots."

HOB (e) Robin Goodfellow or Puck, a hobgoblin, sprite or elf, a familiar by-form of Kob = Robin, Robert, of the parallel Hodge. Hink for Roger, Richard. "From cubs, hobs and fairies, / That trouble our fancies, / Defend us, good Heaven!"

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE Black delivers checkmate with 1... Qg1 • 2 Kh3 Qd1 • 3 Qg2 Qh1.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1993

Manchester may profit from probable early elimination of Berlin and Istanbul

Peking banks on supporters standing firm

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MONTE CARLO

THE bottom line of today's vote by the International Olympic Committee on the host city for the Games of 2000 is whether the controversies surrounding Peking have been damaging enough to lose it the nomination, rather than whether it, Sydney, previously regarded as joint favourites, or possibly even Manchester can win it. Peking leads going into the final straight.

The IOC, some of the members aware of the questions being asked about Peking, is sharply polarised: either believing it is desirable to bring China into the international arena, or solidly opposed to the idea for the time being. The numerical division of the two opinions is unclear prior to the vote, whatever the rumours. The likely scenario

is one that I have expected since the campaigning began: that Peking will lead on the first round of voting, with around 30 of the 89 available votes, and that by the fourth round, after the elimination of Istanbul and Berlin, the support of Sydney and Manchester will have amalgamated, one way or the other, possibly in sufficient numbers to leapfrog over Peking and achieve the 45 needed for victory.

Exactly this sequence happened in 1990 at the election in Tokyo for the Centenary Games; the Toronto/Atlanta vote combined to defeat Athens. In other words, negative voting against Peking, on the second-preference vote by members whose first preference has been eliminated, is more likely to determine the

result than an aggregate majority of first-choice votes.

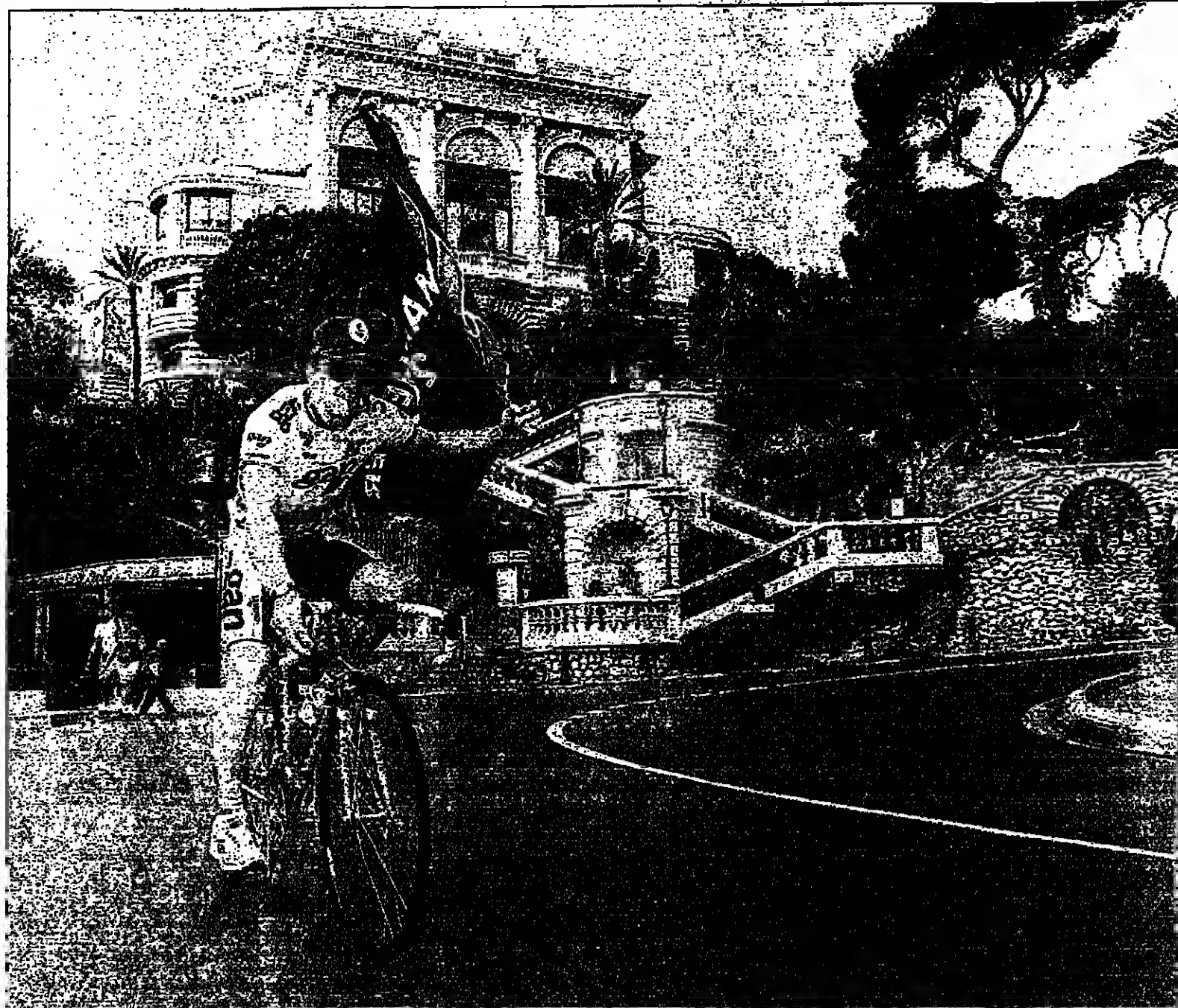
Peking's difficulty is going to be, like that of Athens, to claw, after its initial lead, the additional 12 to 15 votes needed for a majority and victory. Some say that Peking can win on the first ballot. I consider this unlikely, unless Ganga (Congo), Sheikh Ahmad (Kuwait), Vazquez Rana (Mexico) and Nebiolo (IAAF), the power-brokers, have more influence than I suppose.

Opinion seems undivided that Istanbul and Berlin will be the first two cities eliminated: Istanbul because it lacks sufficient impact and is a city for the future rather than the present; Berlin because of civic opposition, active violent protest and suspect finance for a technically sound bid.

Thereafter the different opinions proliferate. Some of the Istanbul Muslim votes are expected to go to Peking, but too few in number to produce the overall majority of 45. The dispersal of Berlin's vote is uncertain. Will they veer towards Manchester, fellow Europeans, or — wanting a non-European host for 2000 if it is not to be Berlin so that, say, Stuttgart can be a strong candidate for 2004 — towards Peking or Sydney?

How much will the gross European vote of 38 members, and indeed the rest, be influenced by a German financial survey that predicts a revenue of some \$250 million more from television, by 2000, for a European host than for China or Australia? Dick Ebersol, head of the NBC network which gained the US rights for 1996, agrees with this prediction.

Furthermore, because the US rights figure is declining, in real terms, and the EBU fee is increasing — now standing at a ratio of 53 for 1996 as opposed to 20:1 in 1976 — Ebersol predicts that for a European host in 2000, the timing of individual star events will be geared for European rather than American television for the first time.



Chris Boardman, an Olympic gold medalist last year, flies the flag for Manchester's 2000 bid in Monte Carlo yesterday

Scott hopes Major can help in vote

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN MONTE CARLO

BOB Scott yesterday forecast that Manchester is assured of 20 votes in the first round when the 89 members of the International Olympic Committee have their poll on the venue for the 2000 Olympic Games.

Scott, who has led Britain's bid to stage the event for the first time since 1948, is still optimistic of victory, although he accepts that Peking remains the favourite among the five candidates.

With John Major winding up Manchester's presentation today after contributions from the Princess Royal, Linford Christie and Scott, Manchester is hoping the prime minister's presence and passionate enthusiasm for sport will sway the vote. The winning city is the one that first obtains an absolute majority of 45 votes, with the city balloting the fewest number of votes dropping out in each round.

Scott said that it was important to have a "dassy presentation" because several IOC members believed that this could sway the ballot. He said that the IOC was "genuinely troubled" by the choice of Peking. "There is a great risk in choosing Peking, but they genuinely feel that they can help the Chinese into the world that they are trying to enter at the moment. It is a tough issue."

He said that he believed that voting groups, such as the Latin Americans, did not really exist anymore and that many IOC members would make up their individual minds without being tied to any block voting system.

Scott said that he "did not hear the human rights issue being discussed by the IOC members", despite widespread criticisms by Western politicians that giving the Games to Peking was immoral.

"The American networks have realised," Ebersol says, "that video coverage works the best for our audiences, because it allows editing to glamorize the leading personalities."

In the past few days, there have been so many conflicting indications of the tide. On Tuesday, the first day of the session — debating the general administration of Olympic affairs — candidate cities sitting in attendance were appalled at the behaviour of Joao Havelange, president of Fifa, the world governing body of football, who systematically took to one side the 14 Latin Americans to demand their loyalty to Peking.

Several openly protested to friends among other candidate cities at this action. One central American member

suggested that the Latin American vote (including Mexico) was split 50-50 between Peking and Sydney, yet other indications are that at least three Latin Americans are in favour of Manchester.

The African vote of 15? Most of the major stadiums in black Africa are the gift of different Chinese provinces over the past 20 years. The Chinese preferring to offer sports facilities to guns, and some Africans will undoubtedly be loyal to Peking. The rest will split between Sydney and Manchester. The most economic Games for impoverished Africa lies in Europe.

The convenience factor of Europe is the reason Sydney has offered all transport and accommodation costs to competitors, including funds for

families of athletes. Sydney recognises that, while it has the acknowledged recognition of being the best bid, it is far from almost everywhere, and does not have a natural electorate. How many in a secret ballot will vote for Australia?

At least one leading member of the Sydney committee was reduced to nervous shreds by yesterday, forecasting the possibility of a "Peking-Manchester finale. That is the scenario which Bob Scott, the Manchester leader, would like, because he considers the nice-guy image of Manchester would profit from political doubts about Peking."

Such is the political/commercial significance of the Games award that three prime ministers will be on

stage during final presentations to the IOC from Turkey, Australia and Britain. John Major's delivery, the final speech for Manchester, will determine more than anything else, in my opinion, whether Manchester finish third, second or first.

On the assumption that there are some members concerned with stability, safety and the true interests of sport — and that there are possibly a dozen members still undecided on their first preference — Major could swing the balance away from Sydney if his appeal carries more conviction than Paul Keating, a known non-sportsman. Major is taking a gamble on his political reputation by involving himself, but the sincerity of his commitment is unmistakable.

The fact that members will not know the voting figures round by round, other than the city to be eliminated, further confuses prediction. A possible analysis is that, if the elimination of Istanbul and Berlin does not provide Peking with a majority by the third round, Sydney or Manchester can overhaul Peking in the fourth.

The result is scheduled to be announced at 7.20 this evening. Juan Antonio Samaranch was re-elected, unopposed, president of the International Olympic Committee for another four years yesterday. Samaranch, 72, has held the post since 1980.

Photograph, page 3
Judgment day, page 42

Watson leaves nothing to chance in practice

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Janzen: apologetic

IF VISUAL evidence was needed of the success and popularity of the Ryder Cup, it came in mid-afternoon yesterday as the Americans came in waves of fourballs to the 18th hole at The Belfry. The setting at this cockpit of excitement was magnificent, the colours of the trees heightened by the sun. A feeling of well-being was induced by the warmth and lack of wind.

The 18th was ringed with spectators often two and three deep from the tee up the right side of the fairway all the way to the green. The stands behind the 18th and the 9th greens were well filled and a procession of spectators made its way up the 9th fairway as well. There were as many spectators in place at this moment as during the Ryder Cup in 1985 — and

this was only the second day of practice.

The owners of The Belfry could not have chosen a better day to announce plans to spend £7 million to build a third course, and a teaching academy. It was a pre-emptive strike for the Ryder Cup in 2001.

For the second day running, Tom Watson was a hands-on captain on the concluding hole. After Corey Pavin, Larry Wadkins, Jim Gallagher and Lee Janzen had driven from the tee he moved across to the water's edge and conferred with his players about the distances of the carries from the tee.

On the green, Watson was again involved, moving around, watching, fretting, thinking. He may be the most conspicuous captain the Americans have had in recent times. If the United States lose, it will not be because Watson has left anything undone.

Earlier he had roamed from group to group, a neat figure in rain gear and a white baseball cap. "Who's ahead?" was his perennial greeting, except when he talked to the Wadkins and Janzen partnership, who were playing Gallagher and Pavin, and he thought he knew the answer. He thought it would be Wadkins, a successful match (and money) player. But Wadkins was having no luck this time. Though Janzen ran in that putt on the 18th, he and Wadkins lost to their opponents, Janzen, the US Open champion, was apologetic. "I let Larry down," he said.

The sun had not lessened by the time Payne Stewart reached the 18th and as he putted his rays burnished the gold tips he has on his shoes. On such a calm day, the 18th was at its most benign. Nonetheless, Stewart, who drove into the water during the singles four years ago, remains chary

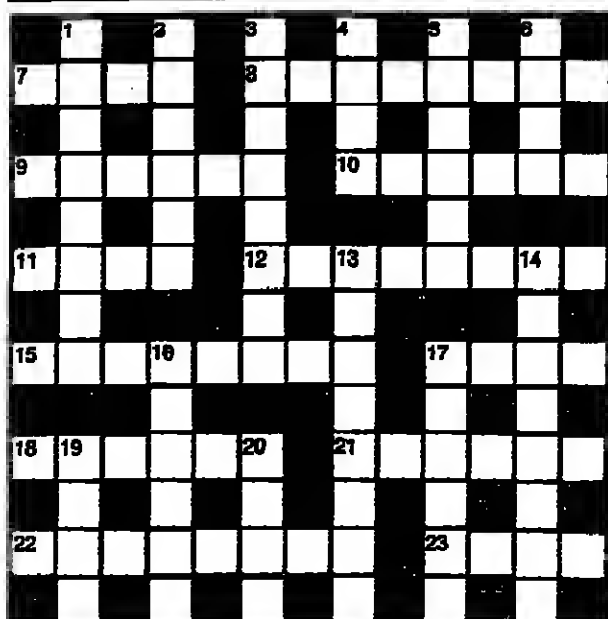
of the hole. "The best way to play the 18th is for me never to get there," he said.

By this time, the Europeans had concluded their practice. Seve Ballesteros and José María Olazábal were paired together in fourballs and they bent their knees to the debutants, Joakim Haeggman and Costantino Rocca, never more so than at the 10th. Haeggman, who is growing in confidence by the day, whacked his first tee shot to within ten feet using a three-wood and then, for good measure, hit a one-iron to four feet. Ballesteros was impressed.

Ballesteros is trying to raise the self-esteem of Olazábal, his countryman. It is an important task and he has not finished it yet. "I need to talk to him a little more and then that's it," Ballesteros said.

Captains of honour, page 46

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3207



- ACROSS
7 Liquid food (4)
8 Contradictory conjunction (8)
9 Fairness (6)
10 Eatable (6)
11 Abominably wicked (4)
12 Lasting for a lifetime (8)
15 Medical institution (8)
17 Bludgeon (4)
18 Unfold (6)
21 Make decision (6)
22 Very tasty (8)
23 Exist (4)
- DOWN
1 Malarial insect (8)
2 Nimble elf (6)
3 Multi-linguist (8)
4 Mongrel (4)
5 Informal gathering (6)
6 Moderately cold (4)
13 Suicide (4,2,2)
14 Sudden plunge (8)
16 Jab through (6)
17 Shrill squawk (6)
19 Pursue lips (4)
20 Terrible fare (4)

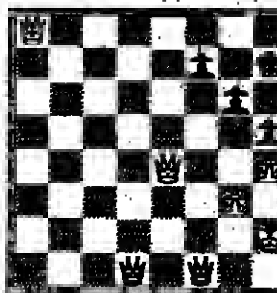
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- ACROSS: 1 Bring 4 Tumbler 8 Continual 9 Bog
10 Nor 11 Grand slam 12 Radio 13 Opt in 14 Soi disant
18 Row 20 Bye 21 Carmelite 22 Detests 23 Sight
- DOWN: 1 Bacon 2 Ignored 3 Going to pieces 4 Toucan
5 Maladroitness 6 Libel 7 Regimen 12 Rosebud 14 Turning 15 Harris 17 Id est 19 Wheat

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By Raymond Keene

Today we continue to celebrate The Times World Chess Championship by looking at critical positions from previous championships. This position is a possible conclusion from the game Capablanca - Alekhine, World Championship 1927. The existence of four queens on the board creates unusual tactical possibilities. How did the great attacking genius Alekhine, Black to play, make the most of these?

Solution, page 46
Championship chess, page 7

By Philip Howard

MAGENTA
a. A dye
b. An Italian lake
c. A town in Lombardy

TALBOT

- a. A chest-of-drawers
b. A French pirate
c. A hound
- HOB
a. Robin Goodfellow
b. A male badger
c. Gossip

Answers on page 46

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